

Let's Get Talking: Language Development

2 Years

Play a game using a ball where you give directions and your child does the actions, such as “roll the ball.” Kick, throw, push, bounce, and catch are other good actions. Repeat each action several times so your child can develop mastery. Take turns giving each other directions.

2.5 Years

Help your child learn new words by using descriptive words to identify the color, size, and shape of common objects and toys. Additionally, describe how things feel (hot, cold, scratchy, bumpy, soft) and move (fast, slow).

3 years

I spy!! Before bedtime, look at a children’s book or magazine together. Ask your child to point to pictures as you name them, “Can you find the green tree?” Be creative and ask her to point using different body parts (foot, head, nose). Ask him to show you something that is square or something that looks soft.

4 Years

Play the “guess what will happen” game to encourage their problem-solving and thinking skills. During bath time, ask your child, “What do you think will happen if I turn on the cold water?” or “What would happen if I stacked the blocks to the top of the ceiling”?

5 years

Select household items that make distinct sounds (a clock; cereal box; pots and lid; and potato chip bag). Put a blindfold on your child and have them try to guess which object made the sound. Take turns with your child. Ask open-ended questions about why they think each object made the sound; what objects make similar sounds.

