

Talking Tips For Tiny Tots

BY 18 MONTHS

UNDERSTANDS

- Understands more than she can say
- Responds to simple questions with words or actions (“Where are your shoes?”)
- Follows simple instructions (“Show me the...,” “Give me the...”)
- Points to 3 body parts when asked
- Points to pictures you name in books or photos
- Understands “in,” “out,” “off,” “on”

EXPRESSES

- Says at least 20 words; words may not be clear, e.g. “Mama” for “Mommy,” “Ba” for “Ball”
- Says “No”
- Copies animal sounds
- Asks for something by pointing and using sounds or words (points to cookie and says, “num num”)
- Uses at least 4 of these sounds: p, b, m, n, d, t, w, h

THINGS TO TRY

- Let her hold a book and name the pictures she touches or looks at.
- Use real words, e.g. “Give me...,” not “Ta-ta.”
- Sing action songs over and over (“Itsy Bitsy Spider,” “Little Rabbit Foo-Foo”). Stop in the middle, wait for your child to take a turn or do an action, then continue together.
- Put objects in containers and shake them. Open and close them, then dump them out. Add words like, “in,” “out,” “more,” “open,” and “shake” while you talk.
- Try on your child’s socks and say, “Too small.” Have your child try on your hat, and say, “Mommy’s hat is too big!” Try lots of other clothes too!

PLAY

- Pretend play with toys (Gives teddy a drink)
- Enjoys making things happen (pop-up toys, wind-up toys)
- Moves to music (definitely dancing!)
- Looks at you when you are talking and playing together

WATCH OUT FOR

- A child who is not trying to talk
- A child who doesn’t bring things to show you or give to you
- A child who doesn’t take turns (e.g. roll a ball back and forth)
- Repeated ear infections (Talk to your doctor)

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

- Point to and name body parts when dressing and at bath time.
- Go for a walk. Point to and name the sounds your child hears. Point to the things she sees. Collect things along the way (leaves, stones, flowers). Talk about what she is doing in simple words, repeating them over and over again.
- Read books together! Wait for your child to point to something, say the word for her, then add a little bit more. (“A bird, that’s right...a bird. The bird is flying.”)

DON'T WAIT AND SEE!

If you have any questions or would like more information, call

1-888-503-8885

or visit www.language-express.ca



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