

Talking Tips For Tiny Tots

BY 4 YEARS

UNDERSTANDS

- Follows three-step instructions (“Get your boots, put them on and go outside.”)
- Can show “under,” “behind,” “next to,” and “in front of,” with a toy
- Understands and remembers details of a story
- Can anticipate what will happen next
- Answers “Who?” “How?” and “How many?” questions

EXPRESSES

- Tells stories with a clear beginning, middle and end
- Starts a conversation and can keep it going on the same topic for three turns
- Uses adult-type grammar
- Can clearly make these sounds in words: k, y, f, g, d, t
- Talks to try to solve problems with adults and children

THINGS TO TRY

- Play describing games like “I Spy,” “Who am I?”
- Clearly say words and sentences your child has difficulty saying (Child: “Him doeing outside?” Adult: “Yes, he is going outside.”).
- Make puppets from socks or paper bags, and act out stories with your child.
- Play simple board/card games and name colours/shapes, count, and follow directions (Snakes and Ladders, Go Fish).
- Add information for your child; “That’s a daffodil and that’s a tulip. They grow in spring.”
- Give your child regular opportunities to play with children her own age.

PLAY

- Beginning to enjoy more challenging games (puzzles, building blocks, construction games)
- Likes to play with other children and uses words to solve problems and plan play: “I’ll be the Mommy and you be the baby.”

WATCH OUT FOR

- A child with a rough, raspy voice lasting longer than one month
- A child who is difficult to understand
- Periods of stuttering lasting longer than three months

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

- Involve your child in planning daily activities. Talk about things you need for a birthday party, for a weekend trip, or for going to the beach.
- Make small books about your daily activities out of construction paper. You write the sentences that your child says. She can draw the pictures. For example, what she did today. Have her share her book with family and friends.
- Read books with rhyming words (mouse-house) and point out sounds at the start of words (“Mommy starts with the mmmm sound – that’s the letter m.”).

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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