

# ENCOURAGING LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

## WHAT CAN I DO IF MY CHILD IS TWO TO FOUR YEARS OLD?

- Use good speech that is clear and simple for your child to model.
- Build and expand on what is being said, for example, child says "juice," you answer, "Do you want juice? "I have apple juice."
- Use baby talk only if needed to convey the message and then accompanied by an adult word. For example, "papa" "You want papa, here is some meat, and potatoes."
- Make a scrapbook of favorite or familiar things by cutting out pictures. Group them into categories, such as things to ride on, things to eat, things for dessert, fruits, vegetables, things to play with, etc. Use family pictures to identify family members.
- Help your child understand and ask questions, such as, "are you a boy?" "Is your name Mary?" "Does the dog talk?"
- Ask questions that require a choice. "Do you want an apple or an orange?" "Do you want to wear a blue shirt or a red shirt?"
- Expand vocabulary. Name body parts, identify what you do with them. "This is my nose. I can smell flowers, brownies, popcorn, and soap."
- Sing simple songs and recite nursery rhymes to show rhythm and patterns of speech.
- Place familiar objects in a container. Have your child remove the object and tell you what it is and how it is used. "This is a ball. I can bounce the ball. I play with it."
- Use pictures of familiar people and places, and retell what happened or make up a new story.