

ENCOURAGING LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

WHAT CAN I DO IF MY CHILD IS ONLY A BABY TO TWO YEARS OLD:

- Encourage your baby to make sounds such as “ma,” “da,” and “ba.”
- Maintain eye contact and respond with talking changing tone and pitch.
- Imitate baby’s laughter and facial expressions.
- Encourage your baby to imitate your actions: clapping, throwing kisses, pat-a-cake, peek-a-boo and itsy-bitsy-spider.
- Talk as you bathe, feed, and dress your baby. Tell what you are doing, what you will be doing and what will be seen, for example.
- Identify colors.
- Count items.
- Use gestures such good-bye and hello.
- Introduce animal sounds such as: “the doggie says woof-woof.”
- Expand on single words such as baby says “mama” you say “Here is mama.”
- Read to your child. Reading may be describing pictures in a book or pointing to pictures in the book asking “What is this?”