



# Speech and Language of the 2-Year-Old



At age 2 years, your child . . .

understands simple questions and commands  
identifies body parts



uses mainly the names of things, actions, persons, and situations in his or her language



carries on "conversation" with self and dolls

asks "what's this?" "what's that?" and "where's my . . . ?"

sentence length is composed of 2 to 3 words

refers to self by name

names pictures and actions



uses 2-word negative phrases such as "not go," "not right," "no want"

forms some plurals by adding s (such as *book, books*)

has around 200 words in speaking vocabulary

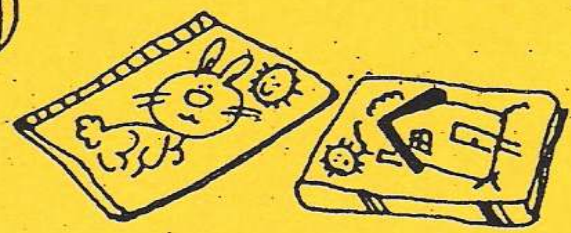
builds an 8-block tower

asks for drink, toilet, food



listens to stories and points to pictures when asked

stays with one activity for 6 to 7 minutes







You can stimulate your 2-year-old child's speech and language if you . . .

read books with simple, colorful pictures

talk about new situations before you go, while you're there, and again when you're home

model correct speech and language for your child

repeat new words over and over.

help your child listen and follow instructions by playing games ("pick up the ball," "touch Daddy's nose")

talk about what you are doing

play tapes or other recordings of music and sing along

listen to your child when he or she is talking; never say, "I don't understand you"

respond meaningfully to child's communication efforts (for example, when the child says, "Where dog?" you could say, "Where's the dog? Look, she's in the backyard.")

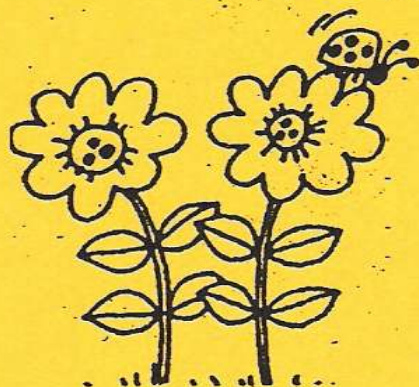
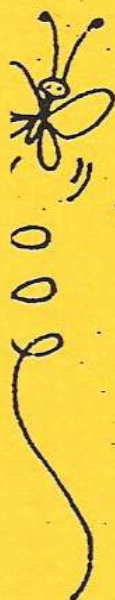
take the child on excursion trips and talk about what you see

carry on a conversation with your child; encourage taking turns as you talk; listen to your child and respond to his or her topic

ask questions to stimulate additional thought and language (for example, ask "What did the tired bear do next?" "Why do you take a bath?")

emphasize color and size of everyday objects; collect items of similar size and color in a basket as you walk around the house or yard

give your child opportunities to use new words by finishing your sentences (for example, "Let's go for a ride to the [grocery store]." or "Buckle your [seat belt].")



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