

Parenting Future Readers

No. 5 (Month 15-16)

Did you know?

Toddlers this age often use one word with a gesture to mean a whole thought. For example, your child might say "juice" while pointing to the pitcher, which means, "I want some juice." Toddler's one-word sentences, with gestures, are called **holophrases**. Your toddler can use one-word sentences to ask for something, to greet someone ("dada"), to protest ("no" or "mine") or to ask questions. Toddlers also may say words simply for practice.



Did you know?

Toddlers differ in the types of words they prefer to use. Some children like object words (doggie, shoe) while others prefer social words like "bye-bye" or "again". Toddlers use both types of words and both styles are fine for learning language.

Did you know?

Research shows that toddlers' vocabulary grows faster when parents talk with their children about things they are watching or doing. Toddlers talk about the people and things in their world!

Did you know?

Research shows that parents who talk more often with their toddlers have children who learn more new words.

Did you know?

Young toddlers remember the names of hidden objects better when they can see pictures of the objects. These visual clues are especially important when children are just beginning to say words.

Did you know?

Toddlers' vocabularies grow faster when parents encourage children's language - for example, by asking questions that require an answer- "What would you like to play with?" Try to get your child to use words instead of pointing. Parents who say "stop" or "don't" (and not much else) have children whose vocabularies grow more slowly.



What can you do?

Build on your toddler's language by filling in missing words and using complete sentences. For example, when your child says "cookie" while pointing to the cookie jar, you might respond by saying, "Oh, you want a cookie to eat." This will help your child's one-word speech grow!

What can you do?

As you read to your toddler, point to and name pictures in books. For instance, you might point to a picture of a duck and say, "See the duck. This duck looks just like the ones we saw at the park." Soon your child will start naming things.

What can you do?

Notice what your child is interested in and use words to describe those things or activities. Ask your child questions that require more than a yes or no answer. Childproof your home to reduce the number of times you need to say "no" or "don't."

Making a Picture Book

Your toddler's favorite book might be one you make yourself!

- ❖ Use photos of family members, pets, and other things around your home and yard. Or cut pictures of familiar things out of magazines.
- ❖ Glue or tape each picture onto a page-sized piece of cardboard.
- ❖ Label each picture with large print.
- ❖ Cover the pictures with clear, hard plastic sheets - like those used in photo albums (don't use flimsy plastic wrap as this presents a choking hazard).
- ❖ Punch holes on the left side of each page and tie the pages together with colorful yarn or use a folder with metal rings for the book cover.
- ❖ Read this book (and others) often with your toddler!
- ❖ Let your child handle and "read" books on his own. Keep a special low shelf or crate for your child's books.