

# Parenting Future Readers

No. 6 (Month 17-18)

## *Did you know?*

Your toddler's vocabulary starts to grow rapidly at this age. During this **vocabulary spurt** toddlers soak up new words like a sponge. By the time your child turns two-years-old she will be able to say about 50 new words. Many of the words children learn first are things they can handle, like shoes and balls, or things that move on their own and make sounds, like different animals.

## *Did you know?*

As your toddler approaches his second birthday, he will start putting two words together to make short sentences like "more juice" or "daddy bye-bye." These short sentences are called **telegraphic speech**.

## *Did you know?*

Toddlers simplify their speech by leaving out sounds that are difficult for them to say or by substituting easier sounds. For instance, your child may say "tick" for stick or "pwane" for plane since the *s* and *l* sounds are hard to make.



## *Did you know?*

Research shows that children who live in more stimulating home environments learn language more quickly. They learn to say difficult words sooner and speak in longer sentences earlier. A **stimulating home environment** means parents are more involved with their children and provide a variety of experiences for them.

## *Did you know?*

Research shows that parents who talk more with their toddlers about whatever they are experiencing have children with larger vocabularies. Talking includes asking questions and expanding on what their children say.



### ***What can you do?***

Talk with your child about whatever she sees, hears, touches, smells and tastes. Describe what your toddler is doing and her feelings or intentions. For example, when she is using some dough to make bread you might say, "You like to squish the soft dough in your hands. The dough feels smooth and sticky."

### ***What can you do?***

**Do** use correct speech when you talk with your child. **Don't** correct your child's simplified speech. This may discourage him from talking. His mistakes will go away on their own as he grows and listens to you talk.

### ***What can you do?***

Expand on what your child says. For example, if she says, "Gama bye-bye" you might say, "Yes, Grandma is going back to her house now. Wave bye-bye to Grandma."

## **Create a Stimulating Environment**

- ❖ **Put up visual displays**
  - hang colorful posters, wall hangings, paintings, family photos, your child's artwork.
  
- ❖ **Provide experiences at home**
  - give your child a plastic tub with sand or water and plastic cups for scooping and pouring (supervise water play).
  - make or buy play dough for your child to mold.
  - let your child help with simple chores like dusting or tearing up lettuce for a salad.
  - provide washable markers, crayons and paper for your child to draw.
  - play games with your child.
  
- ❖ **Take your child on outings**
  - take a neighborhood walk.
  - collect objects from nature like fall leaves or pine cones.
  - visit a park, zoo, museum, farm, pet store, etc.
  - eat lunch at a restaurant.
  - run errands together (post office, grocery store, etc.)
  
- ❖ **Read a variety of books**
  - read your child's favorite books, but also introduce stories about the new things your toddler is experiencing.