

Parenting Future Readers

No. 9 (Month 27-28)

Did you know?

Your toddler is already learning grammar! Listen carefully and you may begin to hear plurals, past tense, prepositions (like on, off, in), or simple verbs like "is" and "does."

Did you know?

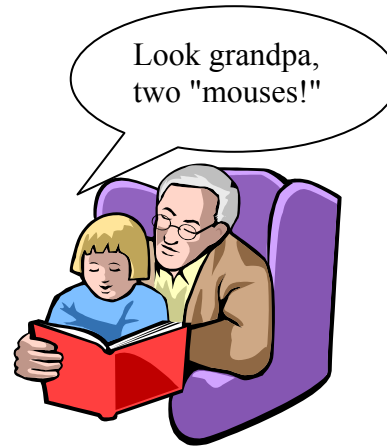
Toddlers discover the rules of language. For example, they discover we add an "S" to make a word plural (dog - dogs). But our language doesn't follow its own rules, so your child may say she has two "foots" instead of feet. When she says "foots" she isn't copying a mistake she has heard, but is inventing new words that fit the rules of our language. Your toddler is smart!

Did you know?

Just as babies learn to crawl or walk on their own schedule, children have their own pace for learning language. Language growth follows a set order, but children differ in when they reach each milestone.

Did you know?

Language learning takes practice!



What can you do?

Do use correct speech and grammar. **Don't** correct your toddler's creative grammar. This may discourage him from practicing, and his mistakes will go away on their own as he listens to you.

What can you do?

As long as your toddler is talking and progressing normally, **enjoy each new accomplishment!** If you have concerns about language delays, talk to your child's doctor, nurse, or early childhood teacher.

What can you do?

Talk with your child. Ask open-ended questions that require more than a yes or no answer. Play games that help your child practice language.

Talking Puppets!

Puppet plays a great way for children to practice language.

- x You and your child can put on a puppet show, perhaps based on a favorite story or nursery rhyme!
- x Or your children can make up their own stories.
- x You can make puppets out of old sock gloves or use your favorite stuffed animals.
- x For more excitement, make your own puppet theater, using a large cardboard box (see page 3 of the newsletter).

Materials for puppets

- ❖ Old socks for puppet body
- ❖ Yarn for hair
- ❖ Pieces of felt, or fabric scraps for eyes, noses, and mouths
- ❖ Markers can also be used for drawing on the faces
- ❖ Glue or needle and thread to attach pieces to sock or glove (keep needles away from your toddler).
- ❖ Gloves can be used for single finger puppets or hand puppets with 2 to 5 figures.

Making the puppets

- ❖ Talk with your child about what kinds of puppets to make (e.g. people, animals)
- ❖ You will mostly need to make the puppets, except for some simple tasks your child can help with, like gluing face pieces on the sock
- ❖ Be creative!



Playing with puppets

- ❖ Once the puppets are ready, you or an older sibling can show your toddler how to use them. Talk for the puppets; act out a short rhyme or story.
- ❖ Then give your toddler a chance to try it. She will catch on quickly!
- ❖ Suggest you and your toddler each use a puppet to act out his favorite rhyme or story.

Books with children's stories and activities by Jan Irvig and Robin Currie: *Mudluscious, Glad Rags, Raising the Roof*