

## Speech and Language Development At age two your child...

- Follows one-step novel commands (e.g., Give me the car)
- Responds to familiar questions (e.g., Where's mommy?)
- Points to at least 4 body parts
- Understands prepositions "in" and "on"
- Points to 5 or more pictures including action words
- Identifies objects by function (e.g., What do you put on your feet?)
- Understands size concepts (e.g. big & small)
- 65% of speech can be understood by an unfamiliar listener
- Produces most vowels and the consonants: m, b, p, k, g, w, h, n, t, d
- Uses 50 to 200 words including nouns and verbs
- Uses 2 and 3 word combinations
- Experiments with early pronouns
- Refers to self by name
- Asks for help
- Uses new words regularly



## You can stimulate your two year-old's speech and language by...

- Reading books with simple colorful pictures
- Providing a good speech model
- Repeating new words over and over
- Helping your child listen and follow directions by playing games: "Pick up the ball," "Touch Daddy's nose"
- Talking about what you are doing
- Playing music with your child
- Listening to your child when he or she is talking
- Praising the child for telling you some of the things he or she is doing and for the child's efforts at talking
- Taking the child on excursions and talking about what you see
- Carrying on a conversation with him or her.
- Asking questions to stimulate additional thought and language.

## Speech and Language Development At age three, your child...

- Follows two step commands (e.g., Give me the toy, then go get a book)
- Understands simple questions (e.g., Who is at the door?)
- Recognizes basic colors and names at least one color
- Understands the concepts of same and different
- Categorizes items into basic groups (e.g., toys, food)
- Understands negatives (e.g., not jumping)
- Has a vocabulary of close to 1,000 words
- Relates experiences through verbalization
- Asks what, where, who, and why questions
- Has a sentence length of 3-4 words
- Starts to use a variety of grammatical forms: past tense, plurals, prepositions, negatives, direct objects
- Uses most pronouns appropriately (e.g., he/she, his/hers/theirs, him/her/them)
- Uses "is" & "are" correctly
- Attends to a single activity for 8 or 9 minutes



## You can stimulate your three year-old's speech and language by...

- Continuing to extend his or her conversation by asking questions or making comments
- Frequently using words he has trouble with in your speech
- Teaching your child relationships between words, objects, and ideas
- Talking about similarities and differences
- Encouraging your child to tell stories using books and pictures
- Providing opportunities for your child to play with other children
- Reading longer stories to your child
- Paying attention to your child when he or she is talking

## Speech and Language Development

### At age four, your child...

- Understands over 5,000 words and produces approximately 1,500 words
- Understands time concepts (e.g., yesterday/tomorrow, before/after)
- Identifies shapes (triangle, circle, and square)
- Has a sentence length of 4-5 words
- Names colors
- Counts to 5
- Understands the concept of rhyming
- Uses complex sentences more frequently
- Uses personal pronouns correctly (e.g., I, me)
- Uses possessives
- Uses conjunctions correctly
- Asks yes/no questions
- Uses contractions, such as "it's a" or "there's a"
- 100% of speech can be understood by an unfamiliar listener



### You can stimulate your four year-old's speech and language by...

- Helping your child classify objects and things (e.g. talk about all of the different things you can ride in)
- Allowing them to help you plan activities such as what you are going to make for a holiday dinner
- Giving your child more responsibility
- Reading longer stories with your child
- Letting your child tell and make up stories for you
- Continuing to show your pleasure at his development in speech, language, and thought

# Speech & Language

# Development

Ages Two to Four

