

My Child's Language Development (3 years old)

A three-year old can ...

1. Use three to four word sentences to express wants and needs.

Example: I want ___ (juice, bread, ball). I need help.

2. Use three to four word sentences to comment.

Examples: I see ___ (a car, a bird, snow).

The boy / girl is ___ (running, jumping, sleeping).

3. Ask and answer "What?", "Where?", and "What is ___ doing?" questions.

Example: "What is that?" "Where is ___ (Mommy, the jacket)?"

4. Learn about and discuss new words in books.

Strategies to promote language development:

- Talk to your child during daily routines and use simple language (e.g. meal preparation, bath time, traveling in the car or bus).

Examples: Daddy is cooking.

We are going to the store.

You're running fast!

- Use repetition.

Example: Mom is cutting. Cut, cut, cut!

We are walking up the stairs. Up, up, up!

- Withhold desired items for a few seconds before giving it to your child. Model the phrase "I want ___" (juice, bread, ball) and pause. Do not force your child to use words, simply model it for him/her.

- Say the names of objects, actions and people your child's environment.

Example: Look! The bird is flying!

- Read stories with your child before going to bed at night. Talk about the pictures. You can borrow books from the public library. The library has copies of the same books that we read in school.

These strategies may seem simple, but talking to your child every day helps them learn to communicate, and therefore helps them in school!