

## **My Child's Language Development (4 years old)**

### **A four-year old can ...**

1. Use four to five-word sentences to express wants and ideas.

Example: I want cereal and milk. I want to go to the park.

2. Use four to five-word sentences to comment on the present and past.

Examples: I'm painting a little house.

I saw a movie with Mom.

3. Ask and answer "What?", "Where?", "Who?" and "Why?" questions.

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 the carrots. Cut, cut, cut!

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

- Talk about things that happened during the day. This will help your child be able to retell a story using past tense verbs. (e.g. First we *went* to the ..., then we *saw*....)

- Label 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!***