

# COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE Development

*a closer look*



Communication and language development is important, as speaking is also an indicator of fine motor skill development and a reflection of cognitive development. However, this Stage of Development is about more than talking; it refers to all the different ways a child understands and communicates. Learning to use and understand language is also the first step in literacy and the foundation for reading and writing.

Here's what you can do to encourage communication and language development:

## 2 Talk



Tell stories, talk about things you're seeing and doing, use full sentences and lots of different words and contexts to help children learn the meaning and function of words and word sounds

## 1 Read



Hearing words and seeing pictures helps children understand that the two are connected; talking about what you read together helps them make associations with words, concepts, and their own lives

## 3 Sing



Singing to children (and with them!) teaches rhythm and rhyme, listening skills, making associations between words and what's going on in the world, and about expressing feelings

## 4 Respond



Responding to a child's attempts to communicate - from babbling to gestures to head nods to spoken words - shows them they're being heard and understood, and encourages them to keep communicating