

Milestones and Ideas - 36-48 Months

For Speech and Language Development

Milestones

Talks in 3 - 5 word sentences

Follows directions (i.e. "Go to the door, get your shoes and bring them to me.")

Likes to talk and carry on conversations

Enjoys playing with other children. More able to share, cooperate and take turns

Understands position words such as 'in', 'out', 'behind', 'in front of'

Can produce the sounds m, p, b, w, t, d, n, h, k, g, f, s, -ing and y

People outside of family are able to understand him or her

Communication Ideas

All About Animals

You can help your child learn directions by asking questions like, "Where do birds fly? Up in the sky. Where do the bugs live? Under a rock. Where do fish swim? Deep down in the water." You may need to help your child at first, but soon she will catch on to the game and know more and more of answers.

Wonderful Rhythm and Rock

When reading and telling stories to your child, don't forget about reading poems, rhymes and songs. Get comfortable, cuddle up and rock to the rhythm of the words. Let your child fill in some of the ending words:

You: Hickory, dickory...

Your child: dock

You: The mouse ran up the...

Your child: clock

Counting the Kisses

When tucking your child into bed at night. Ask your child how many kisses for their nose: "Three? Okay, one (kiss), two (kiss), three (kiss). How many for your cheek?" It is a wonderful way to learn to count.

Imagination Stories

Now your child is old enough to begin making up stories of her own. You can encourage her to tell the stories by writing them down on a piece of paper as she tells them. She might like to draw or paint a picture to go with the story. You can store the stories in a folder or binder for later memories.

Puppet Play

Puppets are always a way to have fun. Use store-bought puppets, use old clean socks or make them yourself. Find pictures (or draw a picture) of a person or animal, cut it out, and paste it on cardboard. Attach a Popsicle stick, paint stirring stick, or chopstick for a handle. Let your child be one character and you another. Have funny conversations with each other.

Warning Signs: Is your child's speech difficult to understand?

Are your child's speech skills not at the age level described?

