

# Talk with me - Communication tips for parents

## 18 to 24 months

### COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Talk about what you are doing when doing jobs around the house such as cleaning and loading the washing machine.
- Use lots of praise when your child communicates with you.
- Read books as often as you can. Point to things in the pictures. Respond to your child's interest in the pictures. Read favourite books over and over. Books with lots of repetition are good at this age.
- Sing nursery rhymes during bath time, when you're out for a walk or playing in the garden.
- Respond to all attempts at communication. If your child points to something, name it.
- Play early turn taking games such as knocking over bricks and posting cards into a post box.
- Join in your child's play. Watch what they are doing and then join in, following their lead. Don't ask lots of questions but comment on what you and your child are doing.
- Keep your language simple.
- Encourage your child to listen to sounds around them.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending your child's development and learning.

For more information and tips about communicating with your child visit:

**Surrey Family Information Service**  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning)  
[surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk)  
0300 200 1004

### "what I like"

- Helping you with jobs around the house.
- Listening to stories and looking at books with you.
- When you join in my games.
- When you tell me the names of things, but please remember that I need to hear it more than once.

### "what I can do"

- Understand and recognise frequently used words and phrases.
- Respond to simple instructions such as 'come here', 'get your shoes' and 'put it in the box'.
- Turn when I hear my name.
- Choose activities that I want to play. I am starting to play pretend games.
- Say up to 50 words.
- I am starting to put two words together.



I'm  
saying lots  
*more*  
words  
now



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