



Building Brighter Futures

Parent Newsletter

APRIL 2011

Issue 3

Language/ Literacy Skills

Early Language Development (0-12 months)

Early language development involves many issues including cognition, play skills, social interaction and oral-motor development. As children awaken to the world at birth, they start a long cycle of language development which involves the understanding (receptive) and production (expressive) of language. The term "Mother-ease" refers to the care giver - infant interaction that begins at birth. A mother hums her child to sleep, imitates the child's vocalizations, plays peek-a-boo with the baby. The first 12 months of a baby's life are essential in a child's communicative development:



Age	Behaviors
Birth to 3 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appears to recognize your voice and smiles or quiets• Makes pleasure sound (cooing)• Smiles reflexively as newborn
4 to 6 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moves eyes toward sound source• Babbles using consonant-like sounds (p,b,m)• Vocalizes excitement and displeasure• Begins to play "peek a boo" and other games• Imitates some movements and sounds
7 to 9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exhibits resistive behaviors• Shouts for attention• Imitates play• Plays vocally• Recognizes some words• Uses social gestures• Uses jargon
10 to 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shows moods• Uses objects appropriately (ex., spoon to pick up food)• Obeys simple commands and directions• Speaks one or more words• Recognizes own name

FIRST WORDS:

The type of words a child uses in the first year, as well as the reason a child uses words, follow a pattern shared by children across the world. Typically, the first words are about objects, people, and actions. "Mama," "Dada," "cat," "up," "car," "out," and "dog" are all common first words. Next, the child uses denial/rejection and attributes (red, big, hot) in his/her vocabulary.

http://handyhandouts.com/pdf/15_early_lang_develop.pdf

Age Appropriate Activities

Finger Painting

Kids really enjoy painting, and what parents often don't realize is that painting is a great activity for child development as well. When they paint, children are able to experiment and express themselves, which is definitely good for them. There are so many different options available that you can use to allow kids to paint. Allow them to use traditional paint, use paint in bottles to apply to paper, let them paint with glitter, or even go with fun finger paints or bath paints.

Language and Social Benefits

Language and social development is important, and painting gives them the ability to share their equipment, to clean up their mess, and more. They also get the experience of playing with shapes, figuring out how shapes look combined, and then get to learn about colors and how they look when combined. Allowing kids to use textures when painting is a great way to increase these developmental benefits. One option is finger paint. With finger paints kids are able to feel the paint and the things they paint. Kids can use paints to work on drawing objects or spelling words if they are a bit older.

Physical Benefits

Painting is wonderful for helping kids to further develop skills like hand eye coordination, fine motor skills, and gross motor skills. With large spaces they can learn to control larger muscles, and with small areas they can work on this fine motor skills.

Science and Math Benefits

Kids are able to combine different shapes, work with curved and shaped lines. Kids learn more about volume as well with the paints, learning about how much paint is in a container and more. When kids are painting, they are able to learn more about colors. They learn how colors look and what they look like when the colors are combined. They can experiment with the colors, mixing them to get other colors. With different paint forms, they can mix the paints to get different textures and thicknesses as well.

<http://myprservices.com/kids/painting-and-child-development>



UPCOMING PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

Story Time at the Resource Centers

Autism Awareness Forum: Saturday, April 9th

Family Expo, Saturday, May 21

Call 938-4683 for more information.