

Those Talking Toddlers!

I. The Importance of Language

- A. Language activities need to be a large part of the toddler curriculum
- B. Promote active communication between the children and between the children and teachers

II. Expressive Language Evaluation Scale

- A. 18 - 21 months
- B. 21 - 24 months
- C. 24 - 30 months
- D. 30 - 36 months

III. Strategies for Promoting Language Development

- A. Talk with the children!
- B. Get close
- C. Really listen
- D. Respond to children and expand on that they say
- E. Talk about your activities
- F. Get beyond the here and now
- G. Engage in pretend talk
- H. Ask open-ended questions
- I. Tell stories
- J. Tell and explain
- K. Take advantage of quiet times for talk
- L. Sing, Sing, Sing
- M. Use a rich (but not too rich) vocabulary

- N. Use vocabulary in supportive contents
- O. Encourage peer to peer talk
- P. Consider teaching baby signs
- Q. Provide props that promote oral language
- R. Make time for extended discourse

IV. Things Not to Do When Talking to Children

- A. Don't correct - recast instead
- B. Don't demand complete sentences - one word answer okay
- C. Don't dismiss home language - encourage them to use it

V. Sharing Spoken Language - Language Experiences

- A. Toddlers are constantly learning
- B. Positive language experiences
- C. With increased language experiences, young children are more likely to become competent speakers, storytellers, readers and writers
- D. Tips to be the best storyteller

VI. Begin with Sounds

- A. Draw attention to all sounds
- B. Model listening
- C. Point out loud and soft, high and low sounds
- D. Move to the sounds (yes, dance!)
- E. Rhymes are awesome!

VII. Expand into Conversation

- A. Assist toddlers to "find their words"
- B. Listen carefully and let toddlers know when we understand them

- C. *Get down to the toddler's level*
- D. *Give toddlers your full attention*
- E. *Use your authentic voice*
- F. *Everything is new and fresh to toddlers*
- G. *Everything you share with the children is an investment in the beauty of language*

VIII. *Storytelling*

- A. *Be enthusiastic and they will be enthusiastic in their response!*
- B. *Be prepared to repeat the story (or certain parts of it)*
- C. *Tell different types of stories*
- D. *Support toddlers in their own storytelling and additions to your stories*

IX. *Language Play, Rhymes, and Games*

- A. *Face and body games*
- B. *Lap games*
- C. *More complex language play*
- D. *Songs*



Early Literacy Checklist for Your Classroom - (Toddlers 18 - 36 months)

- ✓ Book display, easily accessible, at the child's eye level and reach
- ✓ Books with colorful pictures, short stories, and tactile representation
- ✓ Child sized table and chairs
- ✓ Drumming, strumming, and sound producing musical instruments
- ✓ Repetitive, sing-along, interactive songs and fingerplays
- ✓ Matching games
- ✓ Puppets, dolls, and a dollhouse
- ✓ Puzzles with easy grasp handles: 4-8 pieces depending on skill and development
- ✓ Large unlined paper, fat crayons, large chalk, playdough, paint, scissors, beads, fabric, and other art mediums
- ✓ Variety of plastic or wooden blocks for stacking and building
- ✓ Dress up items such as clothes, shoes, hats, purses, and jewelry
- ✓ Full length mirror for dramatic play
- ✓ Props such as phones, magazines, dolls, kitchen sets, and utensils
- ✓ Water and sand play with objects
- ✓ Moving toys such as cars, boats, and wagons

