

Supporting Language & Literacy

15 Months: The Importance of Rhythm, Rhyme, and Song

Your child is trying out a lot of new words and they need your help to get them right. Nursery rhymes help your child notice and play with the sounds, rhythm, or words, learn to speak with animated voices, and how to predict what word comes next. When you help your child explore the sounds and rhythm of their language, you're helping them learn skills important for learning to read, write, and create mental pictures from words.

Tips & Activities



Blow bubbles & when your child pops them, say "Pop!"



Sing songs with gestures, like *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*.

Make up silly rhymes with your child's name, e.g. "Did Matt sit on the cat?"



The Ah-Choo Game: Put an object on your head and pretend to sneeze big, allowing the toy to fall off your head.



Read a few pages of a new book after a favorite one!



Help your child learn words and sounds while they move using rhyming and rhythmic clapping.



Common Language Milestones



- Uses gestures like clapping, giving a high-five, and nodding head for "yes"
- Using many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words
- Meaningfully tries to say 1-2 words other than 'mama' or 'dada'
- Follows directions given with both a gesture and words
- When asked, able to point to one or more body parts
- Understands, *but may not be able to say*, 50 words

Early Detection *is* Intervention

Your child is always learning! As a caregiver, you have an amazing opportunity to guide them on a path to success.

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Talk with your child's healthcare provider if your child:

Doesn't hold eye contact

Does not make any attempts to communicate

Doesn't respond when name is called

Does not babble



Source: Pathways.org

Additional Resources

[Pathways: Communication](#)

[Harvard University: Center on the Developing Child](#)

[Cox Campus](#)

[The Basics](#)

[CDC Milestones](#)