

Supporting Language & Literacy

24 Months: Phonics & Phonological Awareness

Phonics is all about understanding the relationship between letters and sounds, and a critical skill for learning to read and write. You can help your child develop this awareness at home with fun games and activities.

Tips & Activities



Play “Ready, Set, Go!”

Pull your child back in a swing, and say “Ready... Set...” wait, and then say, “Go,” when you push the swing.

Sing songs involving movement, e.g. *Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes*.



Help your child sound out words, e.g. child says, ‘a nana,’ → you say, ‘Yes. A banana.’



Read repetitive books. The hungry caterpillar by Eric Carle is a great example.



Sing the ABCs!

Point to the letters as you sing them.

Common Language Milestones



Uses & understands at least 50 words, although speech may not always be clear

Follows two-step related directions, e.g. “Pick up your coat and bring it to me”

Uses more complex gestures, such as blowing a kiss or nodding ‘yes’

Begins using two-word phrases, e.g. ‘more milk,’ ‘no juice’

Understands action words, e.g. ‘come,’ or ‘go’

Uses words like ‘me,’ ‘mine,’ and ‘you’

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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If you notice your child is having difficulties with a certain skill, isn't meeting multiple milestones, or if something just doesn't feel quite right, **talk with your child's healthcare provider.**

Tips to set you and your child up for success when speaking with their healthcare provider:

**Keep
a journal**

Write down things that you notice your child doing, or not doing, that cause reason for concern.

**Use your
resources**

Explore the websites listed below to find milestone checklists, a list of early warning signs, videos, and more.

**Trust
your
instincts**

You know your child best and you are their best advocate. Don't be afraid to speak up.

Additional Resources

[Pathways: Communication](#)

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

[Cox Campus](#)

[The Basics](#)

[CDC Milestones](#)