

## 2 to 4 Years

- Use good speech that is clear and simple for your child to model.
- Repeat what your child says indicating that you understand. Build and expand on what was said. If they say 'juice' you say, "Want juice? I have juice. I have apple juice. Do you want apple juice?"
- Use baby talk only if needed to convey the message and when accompanied by the adult word. "It is time for din-din. We will have dinner now."
- Make a scrapbook of favorite or familiar things by cutting out pictures. Group them into categories, such as things to ride on, things to eat, things for dessert, fruits, things to play with. Create silly pictures by mixing and matching pictures. Glue a picture of a dog behind the wheel of a car. Talk about what is wrong with the picture and ways to "fix" it. Count items pictured in the book.
- Help your child understand and ask questions. Play the yes-no game. Ask questions such as "Are you a boy?" "Are you Marty?" "Can a pig fly?" Encourage your child to make up questions and try to fool you.
- Ask questions that require a choice. "Do you want an apple or an orange?" "Do you want to wear your red or blue shirt?"
- Expand vocabulary. Name body parts, and identify what you do with them. "This is my nose. I can smell flowers, brownies, popcorn, and soap."
- Prolonging some sounds in words that the child may have difficulty saying, such as 'put on your ssssock (sock)'. Hold the item up to your face so your child can see how you make the sound.
- Sing simple songs and recite nursery rhymes to show the rhythm and pattern of speech. Also leave a space in anticipation that your child will fill in the blank. "twinkle twinkle little \_\_\_\_\_".
- Use photographs of familiar people and places, and retell what happened or make up a new story. Encourage your child to tell stories using books and pictures.