

## Activities for the Stimulation of Vocalization



1. Give your child a noisemaker (rattle, bell, squeak toy, music box, etc.). Imitate the sound yourself. Reward her when she makes any sound by patting her, smiling, and talking.
2. Make pleasurable sounds when dressing, feeding, or bathing your child. Encourage him to make sounds of any type. Sing during bath time. Make up songs including your child's name, mommy, daddy, bath toys, etc. Encourage him to sing back.
3. Entertain your child by snapping your fingers, clicking your tongue, clapping your hands, tapping your fingers, etc. Also use non-speech sounds such as blowing, giving "raspberries", or smacking lips.
4. Sing or hum to your child in simple sounds such as "**mmmmm**" or "**la-la-la**". Encourage attempts to make any type of sound. Don't limit yourself to early developing sounds such as "b, p, or m". Stimulate your child with all the consonant sounds.
5. Anytime your child makes a sound like a gurgle, an "**ah**" sound, or a smack of the lips, respond to him by stroking his stomach, moving your head close enough so that you're sure he sees you and repeat the sound that he made. If he doesn't respond but is still watching you, bend your head close to his and slowly say a phrase such as "I love you" or "Here's my boy".
6. Listen to the radio or play CD's with your child for short periods of time. Sing or hum along using different consonant + vowel combinations. Move your child to the rhythm of the music while you vocalize. Shake her hand or foot to the beat. (Caution: If you play music for long periods of time, your child may block out the sound and not respond to it at all). Sway your child to the rhythm of a clock or music box and make up a simple song or chant to the rhythm of your movement.
7. Play soft or lively music depending on your child's mood. Dance around the room holding your child. As you move around the room, point out people and interesting things. Describe each room as you pass through. Make up songs based on the day's events (ex: what your child did when she got up, what she ate, etc.).
8. Sit in front of a mirror with your child. Say your child's name and point to him. Make different speech and non-speech sounds (tongue clicks, etc.). Encourage him to respond.
9. If you have a tape recorder, tape family voices and play it back for your child. This may encourage her to vocalize.