



Communication, Language, and Literacy Activity for 18 to 24 Months

Using Words to Have Fun

Materials:

- Toys that promote make-believe (stuffed animals, dolls, doctor kits)

What to do:

1. Play make-believe with the toddler. You can pretend to talk on the phone, feed a doll or stuffed animal, or go shopping. Talk while you play, and encourage the toddler to talk back.

"Brrring, Brrring. Hello. Yes, Todd's here.
Would you like to talk to him? OK, I'll give him the phone."

2. Offer props such as a doctor's kit to help the toddler talk about his fears. He can be the doctor; you can be the patient. "Oh good! That shot only hurt a little."
3. Say silly rhymes, such as, "The *bed* is on her head." Make up nonsense words like, "It's time to *skidaddle* to bed." Add a new verse to a song: "And on his farm he had a *pickle*"
4. Ask the toddler silly questions to which the answer is "no" — one of every toddler's favorite words. "Do puppies wear pajamas?"

