



# ALL THE WAYS THEY CAN EXPRESS themselves

Expressive language is your child's ability to **communicate**.

It is how they share their thoughts, ideas, wants, needs, feelings and experiences using their words, gestures, and phrases.

## COMMUNICATION IS MORE THAN REQUESTING WANTS

There are many ways for children to express themselves!



### LABELING

Naming people, places, things and actions.  
Example: "dog", "ball"



### COMMENTING / DESCRIBING

Sharing what they see, feel, think or notice.  
Example: "It's big!", "It's so fun!"



### SHARING OPINIONS

Telling others what they like, don't like or what they think.  
Example: "I like this!", "Yucky!"



### ASKING QUESTIONS

Curious minds want to know!  
Example: "What's that?", "Where did it go?"

♥ All of these skills help your child connect, interact, learn and build relationships!

## WORD COUNT NORMS

How many words should my child be saying?

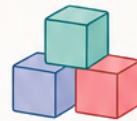
12-18 MONTHS

First words! Your child begins to intentionally label items. At 12 months they use 2-6 words other than *mama* and *dada*.



18-24 MONTHS

50 words. Your child uses a variety of words - mostly nouns. At this age your child understands many more words than he/she can say.



24-30 MONTHS

200-300 words. Your child learns many new words including animals, body parts, and simple verbs. He begins to put these words together.



30-36 MONTHS

450 words. Use positional words (in, on), color words, and ask "what's that?". Uses early pronouns (I, me, you).



36+ MONTHS

1,000+ words. Huge gains in expressive vocabulary during this year. Your child uses mostly 3-word phrases.



## PLAY + EVERYDAY ROUTINES = LANGUAGE GROWTH



The best way for children to develop language is through play and everyday routines!



### FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S LEAD IN PLAY.

Talk about what they're doing and build on it.



### MAKE IT FUN AND INTERACTIVE.

Pause and give them time to respond.



### USE EVERYDAY ROUTINES.

Bath time, mealtime, bedtime, getting dressed - talk through it all!



### MODEL, EXPAND, REPEAT.

Model words, expand what they say, and repeat to build understanding.



Every word counts. Every interaction matters. You are your child's best communication partner!

