



## Language Continuum

### The child age birth to 8 months...

- Cries to signal pain or distress
- Smiles or vocalizes to initiate social contact
- Uses vocal and non-vocal communication to express interest and exert influence
- Coos, using single sounds, with vowel sounds coming first
- Babbles, using all types of sounds
- Engages in talking when he/she is alone
- Engages in a "conversation" with an adult, with the adult and baby taking turns making sounds
- Understands names of familiar people and objects
- Laughs
- Listens to conversations

### The child age 8 to 18 months...

- Understands many more words than can say
- Looks toward 20 or more objects when named
- Creates long, babbled sentences
- Shakes head "no"
- Makes initial attempts at language by labeling objects (baba for bottle, Heddie for Henry)
- Uses vocal signals other than crying to gain assistance
- Says two or three clear words
- Can respond appropriately to simple questions or directions ("Get the ball." "Where is your nose?")
- Begins to use "me," "you" and "I"



## **The child age 18 months to 3 years...**

- Combines words
- Listens to stories for a short while
- Has a speaking vocabulary that may reach 200 words
- Develops fantasy in language
- Defines use of many household items
- Uses compound sentences
- Uses adjectives and adverbs
- Recounts events of the day

## **The child age 3 to 4 years...**

- Uses new vocabulary and grammatical construction in own speech
- Understands and follows more complex oral directions
- Uses over-generalization of language (foots for feet)
- Talks in longer sentences
- Puts together more than one sentence
- Asks many who, what, where and why questions
- Displays beginning abilities to talk about something not in front of her/him (last night we...)
- Participates in meaningful, two-way conversation with another child or adult
- Likes to sing simple songs and knows many rhymes and finger plays
- Can retell a four- or five-step direction or the sequence in a story

## **The kindergarten child...**

- When given a spoken word, can produce a word that rhymes with it
- Takes turn in conversation and interrupts less frequently
- Can tell and retell stories with practice and enjoys repeating stories, poems and songs
- Uses fuller, more complex sentences
- Uses a vocabulary of 5,000 to 8,000 words
- Can pronounce words with little difficulty