



# *The Two-Year-Old Child's Speech and Language Development*

## **At age two, your child...**

- ❖ Listens for the meaning of words, not just sounds
- ❖ Understands simple questions and commands
- ❖ Identifies body parts
- ❖ Uses mainly names of things, actions, people, and situations
- ❖ Carries on "conversations" with self and dolls
- ❖ Asks "what's this?," "what's that?," and "where's my...?"
- ❖ Uses sentences of 2-3 words in length
- ❖ Refers to him/herself by name
- ❖ Names pictures
- ❖ Uses 2-word negative phrases such as "not go," "not right," "no want"
- ❖ Forms some plurals by adding "s" (ex: book, books)
- ❖ Has about 300 words in speaking vocabulary
- ❖ Asks for drink, food, and toilet
- ❖ Listens to stories that have pictures
- ❖ Stays interested in one activity for 6-7 minutes

# You can help promote your two-year-old child's speech and language by....

- ❖ Reading books with simple colorful pictures
- ❖ Being a good speech model
- ❖ Repeating new words over and over
- ❖ Helping your child listen and follow instructions by playing games ("pick up the ball;" "touch Mommy's nose")
- ❖ Talking about what you are doing as you do it
- ❖ Playing music (classical, kids' songs, music with a beat) in the background as your baby eats, bathes, etc
- ❖ Listening to your child when he or she is talking, and not saying "I don't understand you"
- ❖ Praising the child for all of his or her efforts at talking, including telling you some of the things he or she is doing as they happen
- ❖ Taking the child on excursion trips and talking about what you see (grocery store, zoo, park, etc)
- ❖ Carrying on conversations with him or her
- ❖ Asking questions to encourage additional thoughts and language

