



Fun Talk: 3 Year Olds

Your 3-year-old will now be talking in sentences of three or four words or more. He will ask many questions, even when he knows the answers. You can show your child how special he is to you by talking to him and listening to him when he talks. To understand what's going on around him, he needs to learn words to talk about what he sees and does.

Things to try:

- Teach your child how things are alike and how they are different.
Example: *"There are two dogs."*
"One is big and the other is little."
- Let your child play with other children near his age. (Be sure to keep an eye on them though.) Children learn a lot from each other while playing.
- Talk to your child about what you are doing and seeing and about what he is doing and seeing.
Example: *"I'm taking the cookies out of the oven. They smell good."*
- Ask your child questions about what he wants so he can learn how to answer questions. This will help him learn to make choices.
Example: *"Which book do you want to read today?"*
"Do you want chocolate or vanilla ice cream?"
- Let your child tell you stories from books or magazines. He will have a good time making up a story from the pictures. Let him use his imagination.
- Teach him the name of the street where he lives and see that he can say his full name. Do not use a nickname for your child that may embarrass him. Even if he answers to a nickname, make sure he knows his real name because this is what other people will call him.
- If your child says a sentence the wrong way, don't tell him he said it wrong. Say it over for him the right way.
Example: Child: *"Her go home."*
Parent: *"She is going home."*
- Teach "on, in, under." You can let the child get "on" the bed, "in" a big box, and "under" the table. Later, you could play a hid-and-seek game with objects and talk about where they were hidden.
- Help your child use correct pronouns (people words) such as *"he, she, his, her, their, our."*
Example: While in the grocery store watching someone at a fruit counter, say *"She's picking our fruit."*
While brother is brushing his teeth, say, *"He's brushing his teeth."*