Talk with me - Communication tips for parents
12 to 18 months

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Talk about what you are doing when doing jobs around the house such as cleaning and loading the washing machine.

- Play games such as 'Pat a cake', 'Round and round the garden' and 'Peek a boo'.

- Read books as often as you can. Point to things in the pictures. Respond to your child's interest in the pictures. Read favourite books over and over. Books with lots of repetition are good at this age.

- Sing nursery rhymes during bath time when you're out for a walk or playing in the garden.

- Respond to all attempts at communication. If your child points to something, name it.

- Play early turn taking games such as knocking over bricks and posting cards into a post box.

- Join in your child's play. Watch what they are doing and then join in following their lead. Don't ask lots of questions but comment on what you and your child are doing.

- Keep your language simple.

- Encourage your child to listen to sounds around them.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your child's language develops gradually through interaction with the people and things around them.

For more information and tips about communicating with your child visit:

Surrey Family Information Service
www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning
surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk
0300 200 1004

"what I can do"

- Point to pictures in a book when you say "show me" because I now understand many words.
- Point to parts of my body when you name them.
- Follow simple instructions such as "give me the brick".
- I may be able to say about 10 words, although sometimes I will start using these later.
- I will try to copy words that you use a lot, although it might not sound exactly like the word you use.
- I like to join in with songs and nursery rhymes with some actions such as 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'.
- I like copying some of the things you do around the house such as talking on the phone, cooking and sweeping the floor.
- I'm beginning to do the things above with my toys, like making them tea.

I want to know what things are called