



Talk With Me
Early Language Services

Helping Children Learn and Develop Language 5 Years

1. THE CHILD DEVELOPS TIME CONCEPTS.

The child uses and understands time concepts such as “today”, “tomorrow”, “morning” and “afternoon” correctly.

SUGGESTIONS:

- ☆ talk about routine events and when they occur (e.g., “You ate pancakes for breakfast this morning.”)
- ☆ use a calendar to talk about what happened on a certain day and to talk about events that are coming up or that have passed (e.g., birthdays, holidays)
- ☆ after reading a story, talk to your child about what happened at the beginning, middle and end
- ☆ buy your child a watch and talk about time in general terms (e.g., “This morning, at 8:30, I drove you to school.”)

2. THE CHILD UNDERSTANDS “RIGHT” AND “LEFT”.

SUGGESTIONS:

- ☆ talk about body parts in terms of right and left (e.g., “Lift your left foot.”)
- ☆ write “left” and “right” on your child's shoes sing the “Hokey Pokey” song
- ☆ play “Mother May I” using right and left instructions
- ☆ give directions such as, “Run to the right”, “Walk to the left” in play and when dancing

3. THE CHILD COUNTS TO TEN.

SUGGESTIONS:

- ☆ count objects, fingers and toes
- ☆ sing “Ten Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed”
- ☆ children's television shows such as “Sesame Street” frequently present numbers and counting in a way which appeals to children

4. THE CHILD USES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE TENSES.

For example, the child may say: “I walked”, “I am walking”, and “I will walk”.

SUGGESTIONS:

- ☆ talk about upcoming events and things that you and your child will be doing (e.g., “Tomorrow, we will go see Uncle Vic.”)
- ☆ talk about things your child did when he/she was 4 and things that he/she will do when he/she is 6 or 7 years of age

5. THE CHILD UNDERSTANDS MUCH OF ADULT CONVERSATION INCLUDING SOME COMMON SAYINGS SUCH AS “TIME TO HIT THE SACK”.

SUGGESTIONS:

- ☆ give an explanation for a saying until you are convinced that your child understands it (e.g., “Time to hit the sack. Time to go to bed.”)
- ☆ take time to talk with your child. Talk about things that interest your child.