

# COMMUNICATION SKILLS



Communication Skills are the development of a child's language skills including what is said and what is understood.

Communication Skills consist of listening, verbal and non-verbal attempts to respond, eye contact, humor and expression of personality.

## 3 Months

- Cries when upset
- Cries at angry voices
- Squeals, laughs, gurgles & coos

## 9 Months

- Likes to copy sounds and facial expressions
- Likes it when he/she is copied

## 18 Months

- Understands simple questions (where is your nose?)
- Points to objects he/she knows

## 3 - 4 Years

- Understands 900-1000 words
- Should understand 75% of what people say



## 6 Months

- Smiles or laughs when spoken to in a nice voice
- Stops crying when soothed
- Makes babbling sounds

## 12 Months

- Says "mama" or "dada"
- Moves head in response "yes" or "no"
- Understands 2 word phrases

## 2 - 3 Years

- Responds to his/her name
- Says short sentences
- Says more than 50 words

## 4 - 5 Years

- Speaks in complete sentences and tells stories
- Follows 3 step directions & asks a lot of questions

## What parents can do to help:

- Talk with your child about "everything", repeat often and listen to your child
- When cleaning up emphasize "put the <block> in the <box>"
- Read to your child often and ask many questions about the pictures
- Encourage your child to speak his/her needs verbally instead of just pointing
- Praise your child at each attempt to speak and repeat correctly what is said incorrectly to role model proper speech

Contact your Edmonton Early Years Coalition for more information  
[www.earlychildhoodedm.ca](http://www.earlychildhoodedm.ca)