

Basic Information:

An excellent way to build a toddler's vocabulary is through their experiences during everyday activities. These types of activities are often already happening naturally throughout the day. When an adult takes advantage of moments of shared attention with their toddler, these daily activities can provide a rich source of vocabulary building.



Parent/Caregiver Tips:

During everyday activities and routines, try to target vocabulary your toddler is seeing, hearing, and feeling. HAVE FUN, be animated and use a lot of “pausing” before saying the target word. This enables your child to not only hear the label/word but to also see “how” the word is said which increases the opportunity for imitation. Provide a variety of vocabulary as you and your toddler participate in the activity. Examples of daily activities and target vocabulary are:

Mealtime

Sound Effects/Exclamations: Mmmm, yummy, uh-oh

Objects: bottle, fork, milk

Actions: sit, eat, drink

Concepts: hot/cold, in/out, all done

Short phrases: Time to eat, More please, Big bite

Playtime

Sound Effects/Exclamations: vroom, honk, whee

Objects: block, car, track

Actions: crash, push, build

Concepts: stop/go, big/small, up/down

Short phrases: Ready, set, go!, My turn, You did it!

Bath Time

Sound Effects/Exclamations: splash, pop, brrr

Objects: soap, body parts, towel

Actions: wash, splash, scrub

Concepts: on/off, empty/full, wet/dry

Short phrases: All wet, Nice and clean, Turn water off

Next Steps:

If additional support is needed in building your child's expressive vocabulary it may be helpful to contact your pediatrician or contact a local pediatric therapy clinic such as Encompass, for an evaluation.

Additional Resources:

Activities for Toddlers www.pinterest.com/adammila/vocabulary-activities-for-toddlers/

5 Ways to Play with A Laundry Basket www.zerotothree.org/resources/3471-5-ways-to-play-with-a-laundry-basket

The Power of Using Everyday Routines www.hanen.org/helpful-info/articles/power-of-using-everyday-routines.aspx