

Talking With Your Toddler-- Development of Spoken Language and Vocabulary Development (Questioning)

What the Research Says

- **Asking questions** while having conversations with your toddler will encourage him to talk more, which will promote his language development.
- Asking toddlers questions helps them to **focus** on what they are doing and learn more from those experiences.
- Asking questions stimulate a **toddler's thinking, curiosity and imagination**, and it helps them begin to learn important problem solving skills.
- There are three kinds of questions adults can ask toddlers when talking or reading with them: **yes/no questions, "wh" questions, and open-ended questions.**
- **"Yes/no" questions** are considered the easiest question for children to answer and most can do so by their second birthday. For example, "Do you want a some carrots?"
- **"Wh" questions** start with "what," "who," and "where." For example, "What is this?" "Where's the car?" "Who is _____?" "(as you point to a person)
- **"Open-ended " questions** can have many different answers and encourage children to think. They usually start with "how," "what if," and "why." For example, "How did you make that tower?" Toddlers are usually just beginning to answer "open-ended" questions. Most children are able to answer "open-ended" questions by three or four years.