



## **SOUTH PEACE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

9001-10<sup>TH</sup> Street

Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4T1

Phone: (250) 782-1161 Fax: (250) 782-4487

Email: [spcdc@telus.net](mailto:spcdc@telus.net) Website: [www.spcdc.ca](http://www.spcdc.ca)

### **Facilitating Connection and Communication In Young Children**

Dianne Tower, MA, S-LP

Connecting and communicating with your child is one of the greatest joys of being a parent. It almost seems to happen by itself... or does it? There are many things we can do as parents to influence and assist our children's development. This article has been created to provide you, as a parent, with information to help you track your child's development in interaction, feeding, and communication. Suggestions and tips for encouraging your child's development in these areas are provided.

#### **Typical Development**

##### **By 3 months:**

- Sucks and swallows well during feeding
- Quiets or smiles in response to sound or voice
- Coos and vocalizes other than crying (*ooh, ah, u and ee*)
- Turns head toward direction of sound

##### **By 6 months:**

- Uses consonant sounds in babbling ("dada", "bababa")
- Uses babbling (talking) to get attention
- Begins to eat cereal and pureed foods

##### **By 9 months:**

- Increases variety of sounds and syllable combinations in babbling
- Looks at familiar objects and people when named
- Begins to eat junior and mashed table foods

##### **By 12 months:**

- Meaningfully uses "mama" or "dada"
- Responds to simple commands e.g. "stop" or "come here"
- Produces long strings of pretend "talking" (jargoning) in social communication
- Begins to use an open cup for drinking

***Sponsored by South Peace Child Development Society***

*The mission of the South Peace Child Development Society is to provide, and advocate for, quality prevention, early intervention, and support services to children, adults and their families based on co-operatively developed goals.*

**By 15 months:**

- Speaking vocabulary of 5-10 words
- Imitates new words
- Understands 50 words
- Increases variety of coarsely chopped table foods

**By 18 months:**

- Uses real words to communicate as well as gestures
- Identifies common objects and pictures in a book
- Identifies 3-4 body parts
- Understands and uses new words each week

**By 24 months:**

- Uses simple 2-word phrases to request objects, to answer questions, etc.
- Speaking vocabulary of 50 words
- Follows many simple directions
- Recognizes many common objects and pictures when named

**By 30 months:**

- Uses more simple phrases (2-4 words) than single words
- Has short conversations
- Understands prepositions (*in, on, off, out, up, down*)
- Understands and uses simple questions
- Understands pronouns (*I, me, my, mine*)

**By 36 months:**

- Uses many different kinds of words in conversation
- Can join short sentences together to make longer ones
- Speech is intelligible to unfamiliar listeners
- Uses plurals (s) and describing words
- Can tell a story
- Listens to and understands stories
- Follows 2 step directions
- Understands and initiates taking turns

***Sponsored by South Peace Child Development Society***

*The mission of the South Peace Child Development Society is to provide, and advocate for, quality prevention, early intervention, and support services to children, adults and their families based on co-operatively developed goals.*

**You can help your child connect and communicate by:**

- ✓ Being face to face and at their level. This sends the message “*I am interested in you*”.
- ✓ **Observing** what they are interested in, **Waiting** for them to do something, and **Listening** for them to make a sound or say a word. This helps you and your child connect!
- ✓ Providing your child with many “real life” experiences such as shopping, going to the park, baking, etc. This pairs words **with** experiences and this is how the young brain learns best!!
- ✓ Talking about what you are doing and exposing them to “rich” words (names of things, describing words), not words like *stuff, thing* etc. This is highly linked to strong reading comprehension.
- ✓ Singing nursery rhymes and songs with your child to expose them to the rhythm of language and help their brain process sound patterns.
- ✓ Reading books and making it fun! Read with lots of expression and find books that are about functional themes and have predictable patterns or rhyming. This develops early reading skills.

**If you have questions or concerns about your child’s development, please phone the South Peace Child Development Centre @ (250) 782-1161.**

**References:**

*It Takes Two to Talk*, Hanen Program

*Parent Articles for Early Intervention*, pro-ed Publishing

*Assure the Best*, Pathways Awareness Foundation

***Sponsored by South Peace Child Development Society***

*The mission of the South Peace Child Development Society is to provide, and advocate for, quality prevention, early intervention, and support services to children, adults and their families based on co-operatively developed goals.*