

# Supporting Language & Literacy

## 15 Months: The Importance of Rhythm, Rhyme, and Song

Your child is trying out a lot of new words and they need your help to get them right. Nursery rhymes help your child notice and play with the sounds, rhythm, or words, learn to speak with animated voices, and how to predict what word comes next. When you help your child explore the sounds and rhythm of their language, you're helping them learn skills important for learning to read, write, and create mental pictures from words.

### TIPS & ACTIVITIES



**The Ah-Choo Game:**  
Put an object on your head and pretend to sneeze big, allowing the toy to fall off your head.

Sing songs with gestures, like *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*.



Blow bubbles and when your child pops them say, "Pop!"



Make up silly rhymes with your child's name. "Did Matt sit on the cat?"



Read a few pages of a new book after reading a favorite!



Help your child learn words and sounds while they move using rhyming and rhythmic clapping.



## Common Language Milestones

Uses gestures like clapping, giving a high-five, and nodding head for "yes"

Using many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words

Meaningfully tries to say 1-2 words other than mama or dada

Follows directions given with both a gesture and words

When asked, able to point to one or more body parts

Understands, but may not be able to say, 50 words

# Early Detection is Intervention

**Your child is always learning.**

As a caregiver, you have an amazing opportunity to guide them on a path to success!



**Talk with your child's healthcare provider if your child:**



Does not make any attempts to communicate

Doesn't hold eye contact

Doesn't respond when name is called

Does not babble



Source: Pathways.org

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Pathways: Communication](#)

[Harvard University: Center on the Developing Child](#)

[Cox Campus](#)

[The Basics](#)

[CDC Milestones](#)