

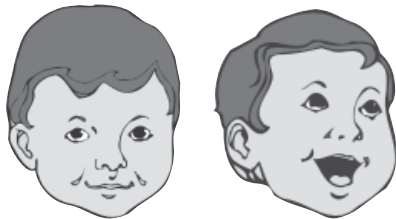
*Your child is developing many skills that will build a strong base for communication. Here are some of the building blocks of talking that may help your child:*

### *Senses*

- ✓ They hear your voice and sounds around them.
- ✓ They look at your face, touch your lips and cheeks.
- ✓ They feel your breath and their mouth muscles move.
- ✓ They taste different flavors in food.

### *Mouth Movements*

- ✓ When your child eats, he strengthens and exercises the tongue, lips and cheeks.
- ✓ Try different food flavors, textures and temperatures to increase awareness of mouth movements.
- ✓ Have your child lick ice cream.
- ✓ Have your child blow whistles or bubbles.
- ✓ Play copying games like smacking your lips, wagging your tongue or making silly faces in the mirror.



### *Respond to your Child's Attempts to Talk*

- ✓ Copy your child's sounds and movements.
- ✓ Have fun with sounds by making animal and toy noises.
- ✓ Praise any sounds your child makes.
- ✓ Create opportunities for talking by waiting for your child's response.

### *Songs and Books*

- ✓ Sing "ba-ba-ba" to the tune of "Row Your Boat".
- ✓ Sing action songs and nursery rhymes.
- ✓ Read books with rhythm and rhyme.
- ✓ Read colorful interesting books.

### *Play and Games*

- ✓ Play easy games like peek-a-boo, pat-a-cake, and ring-around-the-rosie.
- ✓ Use an empty coffee can or a microphone to make your child's voice louder.

### *Movement*

- ✓ Children often make speech sounds when they are moving around freely.
- ✓ Try rocking, swimming, climbing, jumping, sliding, or swinging with your child.