

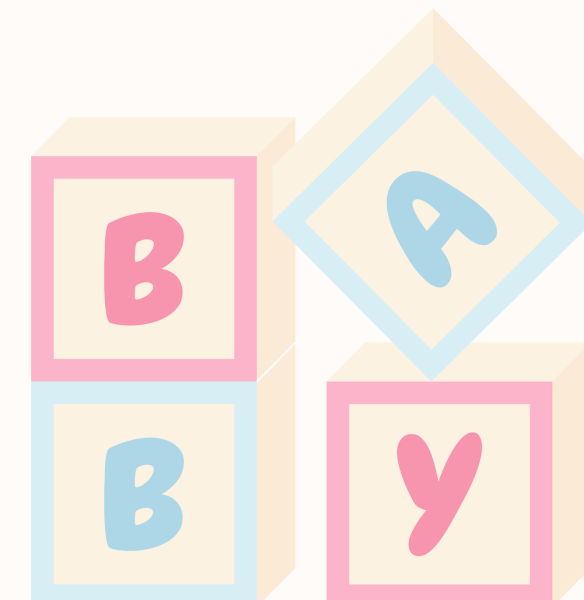
HELP ME GROW LEARNING CIRCLE

COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT

(RECEPTIVE & EXPRESSIVE)

WHAT IS COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT

Communication development is the process of your child learning how to share their thoughts and understand what others are saying. It is not just about talking; it includes how they use their voice, body, and even their facial expressions to "talk" to you.



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

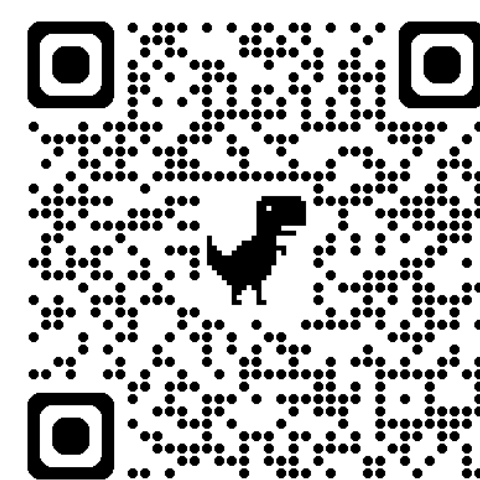
It's often broken down into two main parts:

- **Understanding (Receptive Language):** This is how your child makes sense of the world around them. It starts with them recognizing your voice or turning toward a sound. As they grow, it includes following directions (like "get your shoes") and understanding stories you read together.
- **Expressing (Expressive Language):** This is how your child tells you what they need, want, or feel. It begins with different types of cries and cooing, moves to babbling ("ba-ba-ba"), then to first words, and eventually to full sentences and storytelling.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT

You are your child's first and most important "conversation partner". You can help by:

- **"Serve and Return":** When your baby makes a sound or a gesture (the "serve"), respond back with words or a smile (the "return").
- **Narrating the Day:** Talk about what you are doing as you do it: "Now I'm putting on your blue socks".
- **Reading and Singing:** Even if they don't understand all the words yet, hearing the rhythm of language through books and songs builds their "brain library" of sounds.
- **Using Your Home Language:** Speak to your child in the language you are most comfortable with; this provides the best model for them to learn how language works.



DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

The Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) is considered a "gold standard" tool because it relies on the person who knows the child best: you! It typically takes only 10-15 minutes to complete. It lists specific things your child can do, helping you recognize and celebrate their progress. See where your child is at developmentally by scanning the QR code.



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ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT

For Infants (Birth to 12 months)

At this stage, babies learn primarily through simple interactions.

- **The "Echo" Game:** When your baby makes a sound like "ba-ba" or "ga-ga," say it back to them. This teaches them that their voice has power and that conversations go back and forth.
- **Narration (Sportscasting):** Talk about what you are doing while you do it. "I'm putting on your yellow shirt now" or "Let's wash your tiny toes".
- **Face-to-Face Play:** Make funny faces or play peek-a-boo. Watching your mouth and expressions helps them understand how sounds are made and how emotions are shown.

ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT



For Toddlers (12 months to 24 months)

- **Animal Sounds:** Look at pictures of animals and make their sounds (e.g., "The cow says Moo"). Sounds are often easier for toddlers to copy than full words.
- **Choice-Making:** Instead of just giving them a snack, ask, "Do you want an apple or a banana?". This encourages them to use their voice or a gesture to communicate a specific need.
- **Action Songs:** Sing songs with movements like "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" or "The Wheels on the Bus". Matching actions to words helps them learn what the words mean.

ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT

For Preschoolers (2 to 4 Years)

At this age, children use more imagination and expand their sentences.

- **Add-a-Word:** If your child says a single word like "Car," you can expand it to "Yes, a big red car!". This shows them how to build longer sentences.
- **Picture Talk:** While reading, instead of just the story, ask "Where is the dog?" or "What is the boy doing?". Let them point or try to describe the action.
- **Household Help:** Give simple, two-step directions like "Please get your shoes and put them by the door". This builds their "listening brain"



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