

2 Year Visit – Parent Handout

Your Talking Child

- Talk about and describe pictures in books and the things you see and hear together.
- Parent & child playtime, where the child leads, is the best way to help toddlers learn to talk.
- Read to your child every day.
- Your child may love hearing the same story over and over.
- Ask your child to point to things as you read.
- Stop a story to let your child make an animal sound or finish a part of the story.
- Use correct language; be a good model for your child.
- Talk slowly and remember that it may take a while for your child to respond.

Your Child and Screen Time

- It is better for toddlers to play than watch screens.
- Limit screen time to 1-2 hours or less each day.
- Watch TV together and discuss what you see and think.
- Be careful about the programs and advertising your young child sees.
- Do other activities with your child such as reading, playing games, and singing.
- Be active together as a family. Make sure your child is active at home, at child care, and with sitters.

Safety

- Be sure your child's car safety seat is correctly installed in the back seat of all vehicles.
- Remove coat before buckling in car seat.
- There should be no more than a finger's width of space between your child's collarbone and the harness strap.
- Everyone should wear a seat belt in the car. Do not start the vehicle until everyone is buckled up.
- Never leave your child alone in your home or yard, especially near cars, without a mature adult in charge.
- When backing out of the garage or driving in the driveway, have another adult hold your child a safe distance away so he is kept safe.
- Keep your child away from moving machines, lawn mowers, streets, moving garage doors, and driveways.
- Have your child wear a good-fitting helmet on bikes and tricycles.
- If you have a gun, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.
- Use sunscreen when outdoors. Reapply frequently.

Toilet Training

Signs of being ready for toilet training include

- Staying dry for 2 hours
 - Knows if he is wet or dry
 - Can pull pants down and up
 - Wants to learn
 - Can tell you if he is going to have a bowel movement
- Plan for toilet breaks often. Children use the toilet as many as 10 times each day.
 - Help your child wash her hands after toileting and diaper changes and before meals.
 - Clean potty chairs after every use..
 - Take your child to choose underwear when he feels ready to do so.

How Your Child Behaves

- Praise your child for behaving well.
- It is normal for your child to protest being away from you or meeting new people.
- Listen to your child and treat him with respect. Expect others to do as well.
- Play with your child each day, joining in things the child likes to do.
- Hug and hold your child often.
- Give your child choices between 2 good things in snacks, books, or toys.
- Help your child express his feelings and name them.
- Help your child play with other children, but do not expect sharing.
- Never make fun of the child's fears or allow others to scare your child.
- Watch how your child responds to new people or situations.

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