



Toddler Talk

Developing Language: A Trip to The Store

Shop Talk!

Shopping is just one of many routines that can help your child learn.



It's especially good for teaching new words and introducing preschoolers to new people and places.

What you'll need:
A short shopping list

What to do:
Pick a time when neither you nor your child is hungry or tired.

At the grocery store, put your child in

the grocery cart so that he/she faces you.

Take your time as you walk up and down the aisles.

Talk about what you are seeing and doing:

"First, we're going to buy some cereal. See, it's in a big red and blue box.

Listen to the great noise it makes when I shake the box. Can you shake the box? Now we're going to pay for the groceries.

We'll put them on the counter while I get out the money.

The cashier will tell us how much we have to pay."

Let your child feel the items you buy,

A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement

Center of Excellence ♦ Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ♦ Florida's Children's Forum
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County Head Start ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start

a cold carton of milk, for example, or the skin of an orange.

Talk to your child about the items.

"The skin of the orange is rough and bumpy."

Can Rochelle feel the skin?"



Be sure to name objects you see on a shopping trip.

Let your child touch a soft sweater or try on a hat or a mitten.

Find a mirror so he can see himself.

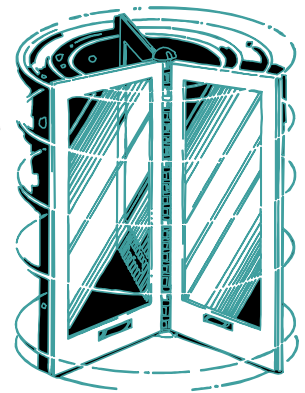
Talk as you go. "Feel how soft the sweater is. Who's that in the mirror? Is that Andre?"

Let your child practice his "hi's" and "bye-byes" on clerks and other shoppers on your outings.

Keep talking, keep moving, and let your child "help."

"In this store we need to buy some buttons. You can hold the cloth next to the buttons so I can find the right color."

Putting your toddler's hands in the right position can help him learn to understand your directions.



Leave for home before your child gets grumpy.

Shopping is one of many ways to surround children with meaningful talk. They need to hear a lot of words in order to learn to communicate themselves. It's particularly helpful when you talk about the "here and now"--things that are going on in front of your child.

For more information contact:



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

School Readiness Series, Parent Tip Sheets, #16: Toddler Talk.

© 1999, Tampa, Florida

This is a publication of the Florida Center for Parent Involvement which was funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The opinions contained in this publication are those of the grantee and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Education. All or portions of this work may be reproduced providing the Florida Center for Parent Involvement, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida is properly credited on all reproductions.

Events, activities, programs and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law and in accordance with the University's respect for personal dignity.

**University of
South Florida
USF**