



Communication Development

What is Communication Development?

There are 2 types of communication: expressive and receptive. Expressive communication is how we *tell* others information, and receptive communication is how we *understand* information that is shared with us. Both types of communication skills are important for socializing and learning.

Here are ways you can help your child practice communication:

Expressive Communication

- **Use gestures:** Explain things you see throughout the day by using signals or motions
- **Say words:** TALK, TALK, TALK! Point to things you see and name what they are. When you know what your child wants, say the word out loud and let him practice.
- **Tell stories:** Tell stories with your child and ask what she thinks will happen next.
- **Be “social”:** Introduce your child to other kids the same age. Show him how to say hello and start talking.

Receptive Communication

- **Give directions:** Help your child follow instructions by giving simple directions and using hand movements. Work your way up to more challenging instructions, such as “get your coat and go outside.”
- **Follow “daily routines”:** Talk to your child about the parts of your day and what you’re doing together.
- **Encourage listening during playtime:** Help your child understand what other children say to him during playtime.
- **Read books:** Read books to your child. Ask questions to see if she is listening and understands what is happening.

For more information about how United Way is supporting school readiness through healthy child development, please visit

unitedwaymassbay.org/DRIVE



There are **5** main areas of development:

1. Communication
2. Fine Motor
3. Gross Motor
4. Social Emotional
5. Problem Solving

