

# Dolls

Talking activities with toys



## Talk about what you and your child are doing

As a parent or caregiver, you play an important role in your child's language learning. Turn playtime with toys into back-and-forth interactions and help your child build their language. When playing together, talk about what you and your child are doing. Try these activities in your language.



### With your baby

- Talk about the doll's eyes, ears, toes, and belly button. Then talk about your child's eyes, ears, toes, and belly button.
- If your child can sit up, put the doll in their lap. Help them to rock the doll, burp the doll, or feed the doll. Put a blanket on the doll and say things like, "Time to sleep. Night-night baby."



### With your toddler

- Talk about the doll's different body parts and clothes.
- Encourage your child to pretend to feed, dress, put it to sleep, or give it a bath.
- Say short, simple sentences, like "The baby's eating," "The diaper's on" or "Let's wash the baby."



### With your preschooler

- Play pretend house with your child. Get a play crib or a little box and make a place for the baby to sleep. Find little toys for the doll. Get some play food and dishes or use recycled containers like cereal boxes.
- Help your child learn to problem solve by asking questions like, "The baby is crying. What's wrong?" or "The baby hurt her toe. What should we do?"



### Where to get help

Speech-language pathologists can help. Learn more at [ahs.ca/pedrehab](https://ahs.ca/pedrehab).

These ideas can also be used with stuffies or puppets. Another way to learn about babies is to encourage your child to help with younger siblings. They can bring diapers or clothing when needed.



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