What You Should Be Doing:

Birth to 3 months
- Whenever your baby makes sounds try to imitate them. Use a pleasant voice when talking to your baby.
- Hold your baby close to you, often rocking, singing, talking quietly and ready.
- Talk to your baby using his/her name while you work around the house, “Hello, Johnny.”

3 – 9 months
- Keep imitating your baby’s sounds, talk a lot with him/her
- Hold your baby close to you, often singing, reading nursery rhymes, stories or talking.
- Talk to your baby about his/her toys, and play games like “ Peek-a-boo” or “Pat-a-cake”.

9 – 12 months
- Make simple speech sounds to see if your baby will imitate your (bah-bah, gah-gah).
- Pay attention to see if your baby says “mama”, “dada”.
- Talk with your baby about his/her toys and items in your house. Play singing games.
- Point to pictures in their books and talk about them

12 – 18 months
- Show your baby his/her body parts, “Here’s baby’s nose, eye, ear”, etc.
- Show simple picture books, helping to turn the pages, talk about the pictures.

18 – 24 months:
- Read simple stories to your child and ask questions: “where’s the kitty?” and point out the picture.
- Give instructions, “Put the doll on the chair.” “Put the ball in the box.”