

## Communication and Language Development: Verbal Development

### Teaching Tips:

- Many educators find it helpful to teach verbal development after having introduced the concepts in the overview of pillar four.
- Verbal development in this context refers to the way in which children begin to both understand and produce language as a form of communication and relates to children ages 18 months through 3 years.
- Parents of children in the toddler years are generally interested in how children learn language.
- Many parents want information about what they can do to help the process of language acquisition while others believe it just happens naturally.
- Use the key messages below as a focus for teaching this topic as well as a summary of the content.

### Learning Objectives for Parents and Caregivers

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After learning about verbal development, parents and caregivers will be able to:

- 1) Identify and describe the various phases of language acquisition, including important milestones
- 2) Understand the importance of their role in their child's language development

### Key Messages for Parents and Caregivers

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- 1) Young children experience tremendous growth in their ability to communicate as they move from infancy to toddlerhood during their second and third years of life.
- 2) Learning language includes both the ability to understand as well as to produce language.
- 3) The ability to use language to effectively communicate with others is a key component in a child's early development.
- 4) Children learn language through a process. First, words combine to make short phrases which eventually evolve into sentences that convey the child's thoughts and feelings.
- 5) Parents and caregivers have a unique role in fostering a child's early linguistic development because language development is essentially a social behavior.

