



Communication, Language, and Literacy Activity for 12 to 18 Months

"More ... All Gone"

Materials:

- Food
- Cup or bottle
- Toys

What to do:

1. Put out less food than you usually would when you are feeding the child. When the child has finished eating what you have given him, ask if he wants "more." When you offer more food or drink, tell the child you are giving him more: "Here is some more banana." When the child has cleared his plate or when you take the food away, say that the food is "all gone."
2. Say, "All gone," after a child has finished drinking from a cup or bottle. Encourage the child to say these words. Ask the child questions: "Where is your milk?"
3. Teach the child to use gestures or simple signs along with the words "all gone," or "more," such as an open wiggly hand for "more" or arms outstretched for "all gone." These gestures will help the child understand the concept and remember the words that go with the motions.
4. Play tug-of-war with a blanket or towel. Let the child have a little more of the blanket each time the child says or signs "more."
5. Use a toy such as a jack-in-the-box to emphasize the use of these words. Crank the handle "more" and cover up the jack-in-the-box and say, "It's all gone." The anticipation and surprise will increase the child's interest in these activities.
6. Encourage the use of the words in connection with appropriate linking words such as "more milk" or "cookie all gone."

