



COMMUNICATIONS, LANGUAGE & LITERACY

18 TO 36 MONTHS

Have continuous conversations with your older toddler/younger preschooler during routines such as mealtimes, in the car, morning and nighttime schedule, etc.

Model and expand language by sharing books, make up stories, singing and talking about what's happening around them.

Ask your child to “read” to you. Model the direction of the book, how to turn pages, etc., but allow them to do it their way. Eventually, with consistent modeling, they will learn to hold the book correctly.

Read books with flaps, textures, and objects for labeling. Ask your child to repeat words from the book.

Point to words in books, magazines, or menus and then to the picture they represent.

Sing songs and read stories together often.





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Encourage correct words/phrases by modeling. Repeat the way they said the word, and then say it correctly. Over time, they will begin using the correct words.


Ask questions frequently and allow your child to respond.

**Introduce pretend words that rhyme with your child's name.
(Noah boah, Kaley maley)**

**Introduce new words for same objects such as kitten for kitty,
blanket for blankie, etc.**

Create a photo book of special people, places, and interests. For younger toddlers, point and name frequently and as they get older, they can repeat and/or name. Add to photo book as things change.

Cut out pictures in a magazine and label the words with your child.





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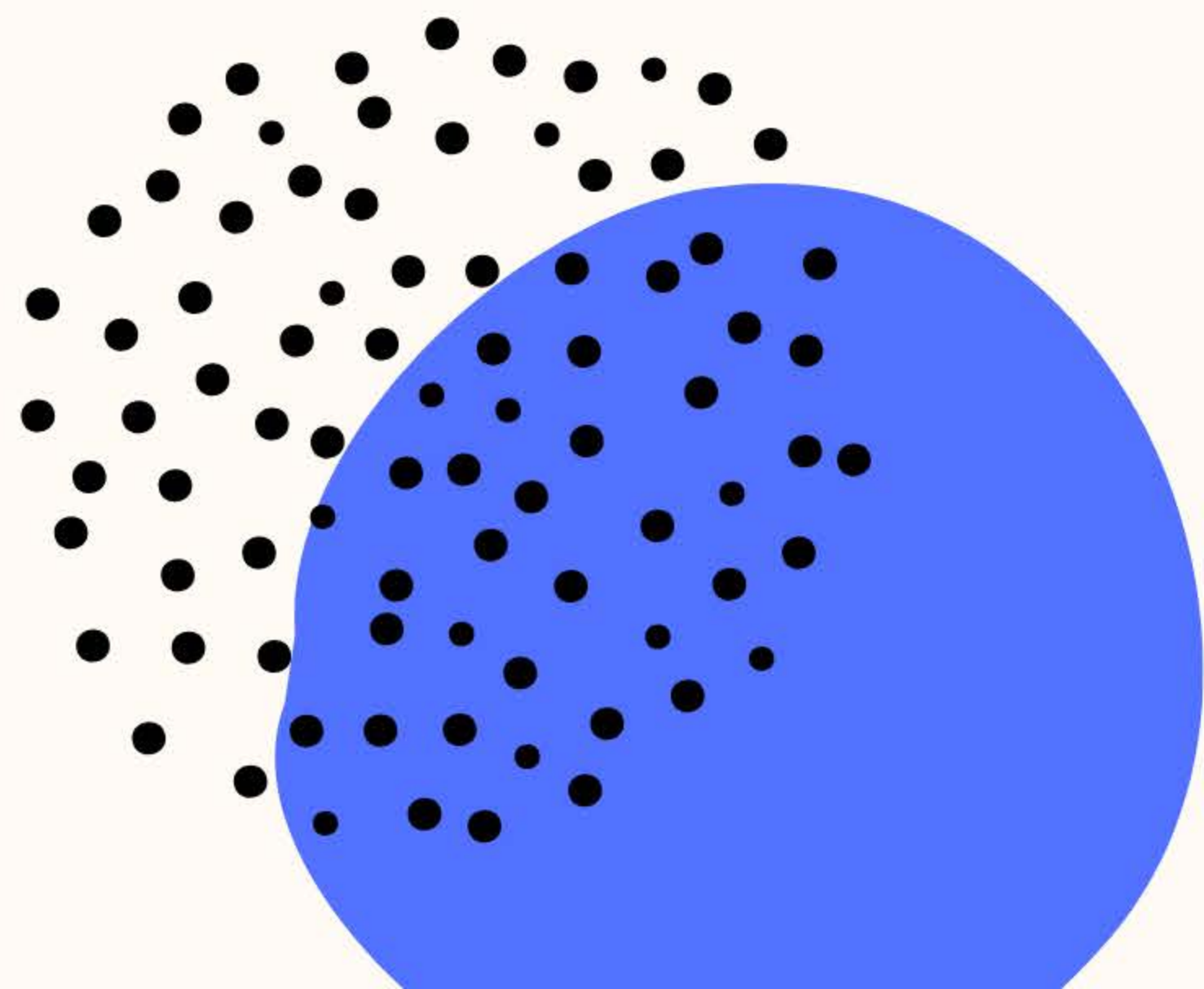
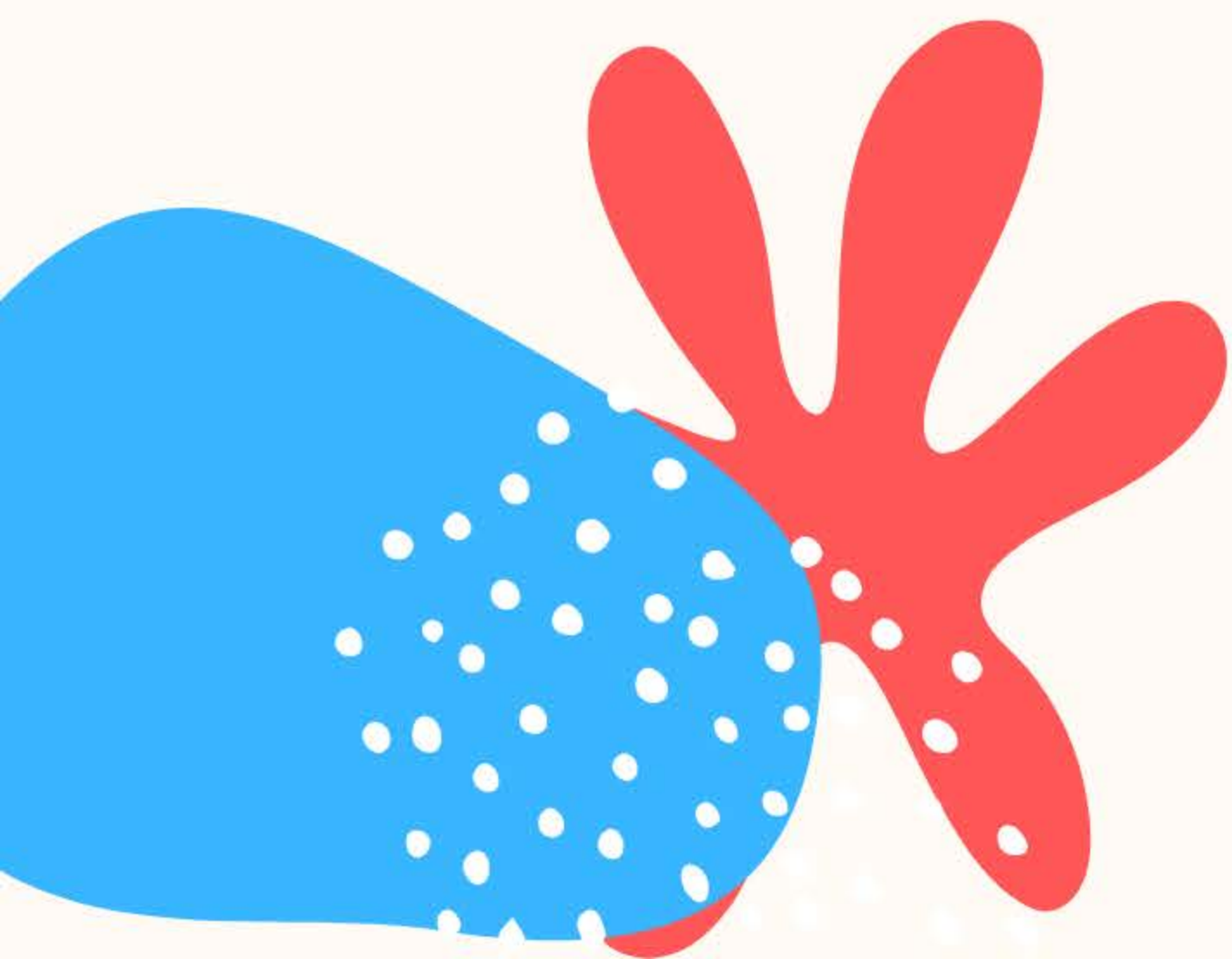


Model new words when doing activities: “It sure is breezy out here” or “You are pouring that water into the container.”

When possible, discuss and compare experiences in a book with real life experiences. If you are reading a book about a dog, and you have a dog, talk about same and different, what dogs do, and whether your dog behaves like the dog in the story.

Point out letters in the environment such as M for McDonald’s or S for Stop sign.

Teach your child simple words like “hello” in other languages: hola (Spanish), nin hao (nee-how) (Chinese), bonjour (French), guten tag (German), ta-blu (Karen), etc.





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Make lists with your child and encourage them to “read” them with you.

Allow your child to practice writing with assorted writing tools: crayons, markers, pens, pencils, paint brushes.

Provide assorted papers to write on: copy paper, construction paper, light sandpaper, magazines, etc.

Encourage younger preschoolers to use a ruler or tracing materials such as a plastic lid to practice making lines.

Allow your child to copy shapes or letters in their names. Can begin with tracing and then copying and eventually write some letters from memory.

