



## Block Telephone

Join your child's pretend phone call and use imitation, response, and turn-taking to make the familiar action meaningful.

### Helps Your Child Grow



#### Imitation and Symbolic Representation and Play

Using a block or another object as a pretend phone helps your child imitate a familiar action and understand that one object can represent another.



#### Communicating and Speaking

A pretend phone call gives your child practice taking conversational turns and using words to keep an exchange going.



## What You'll Need



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1. Building blocks



## Who's Calling?

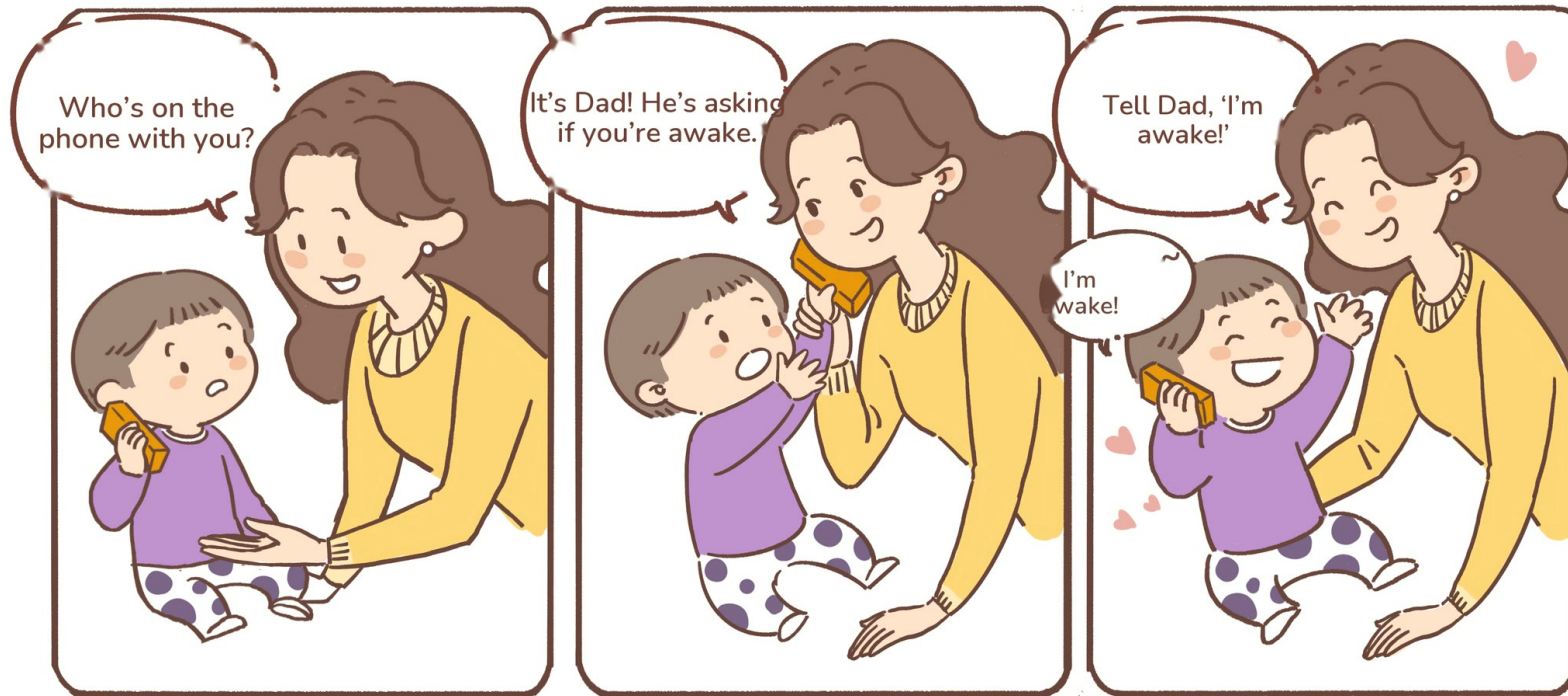
If your child picks up a block and copies you making a phone call, join the pretend game once your real call is over. A simple response shows that their imitation is meaningful and invites them to keep going.

### Observations

- Copies your movement and holds a block beside their ear
- Watches closely as you make a pretend phone call

### Tips

- A block, banana, or ball can all become a pretend phone. Follow the idea instead of correcting which object they chose.
- Imitating familiar adult actions is an important way young children learn how everyday life works.



## Keep the Conversation Going

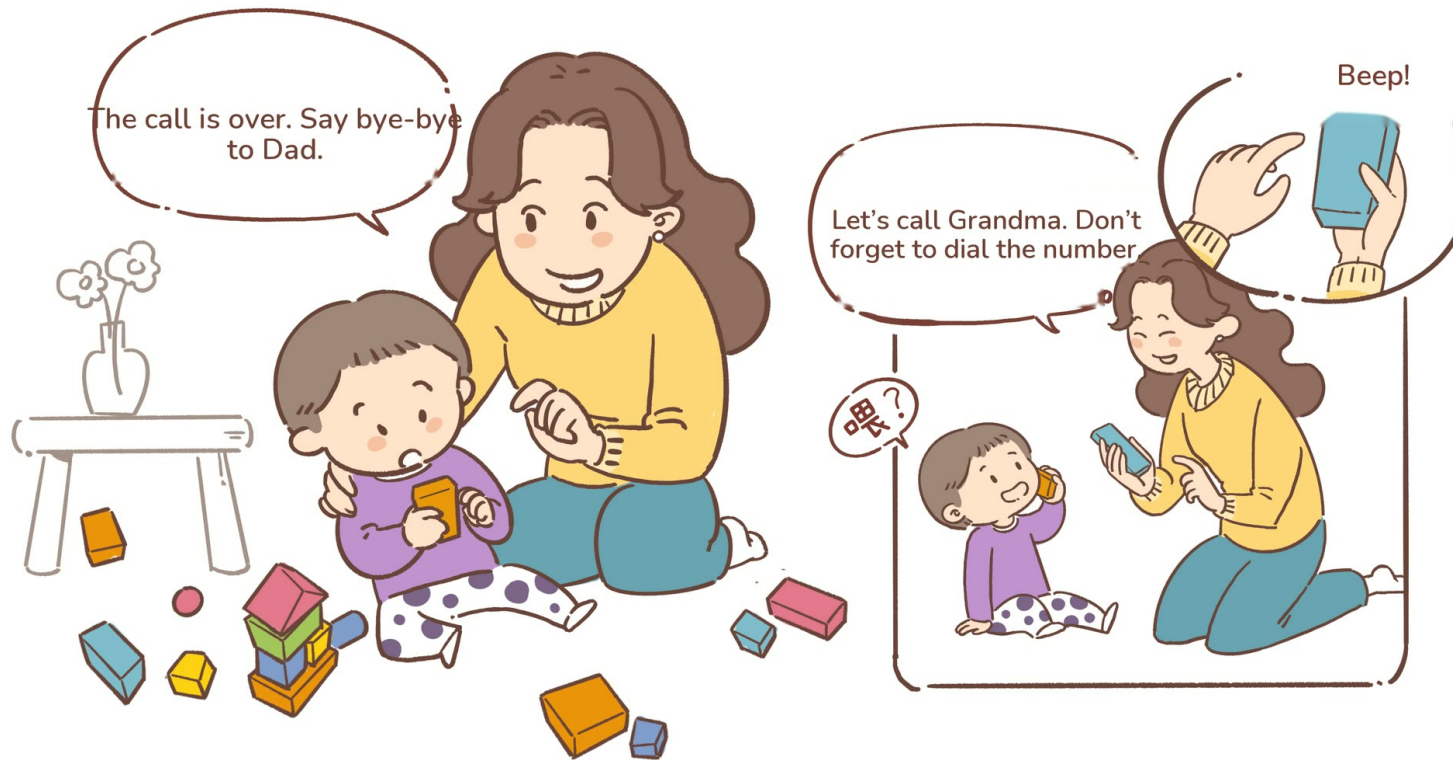
If your child says “Hello” and then runs out of words, pretend to listen to the caller and relay a short message: “Grandpa says hi!” Add one simple line at a time so your child can experience what a phone conversation does and choose whether to continue.

### Observations

- Copies you using a block as a pretend phone
- Uses simple words or sounds to respond to the voice on the “phone”

### Tips

- Use an expressive face and vary your voice as you relay the pretend caller’s words.
- Begin with a simple greeting such as “Hello, is this Maya?” Then add familiar details: “Dad is at work” or “What are you playing with?”
- Pause after each sentence and watch for a response. When your baby makes a sound, answer it so they can experience conversation as taking turns.



## Make Another Call

At the end of the call, say goodbye together and “hang up.” If your child wants more, pretend to dial another family member and begin a new conversation.

### Observations

- Picks up a block as a pretend phone to start the game again
- Waves after hearing you say goodbye

### Tips

- When a real phone rings, point it out: “The phone is ringing. Who could be calling?” This connects pretend play with everyday experience.
- After one simple demonstration, follow your child’s lead. Listening, pretending to dial, or repeating “Hello?” are all ways to play.