

Did you know...



Children learn about language by listening to parents and caregivers talk and by joining in conversation. Talking with your baby or toddler every day helps her develop important language skills. Helping your child develop these skills when she is young will help her understand what she hears, and later, what she reads.

Very young children can understand spoken words long before they can speak any of them — so talk with them throughout the day and you will be amazed at how your child responds!

Here's how...



- ✦ Talk to your baby in “parentese,” which is talking in a sing-song way, stretching out your vowels.
- ✦ Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props. Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- ✦ Name things (real objects and pictures in books) as you go through the day. Use songs and nursery rhymes.
- ✦ Make sure your child has lots of chances to talk *with* you, not just listen to you talk.
- ✦ Ask your baby a question and then answer for her. “Your diaper needs changing; let’s do that right now, OK? Good!”
- ✦ Use the language that is most comfortable for you!

Read



***The Mitten*, adapted by Jan Brett (board book edition)**



When Nicki drops his white mitten in the snow, he goes on without realizing that it is missing. One by one, woodland animals find it and crawl in; first, a curious mole, then a rabbit, then others, each one larger than the last. Finally, a big brown bear is followed in by a tiny brown mouse. What will happen next?!

This board book version is shorter than the original story, and is perfect for little hands to hold. For babies and young toddlers, try talking about the pictures rather than reading the text word for word.

Choosing Books



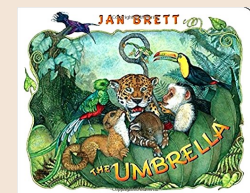
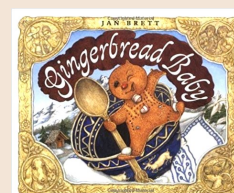
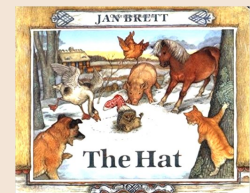
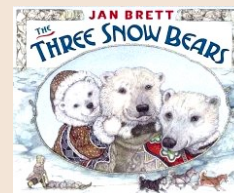
More Jan Brett board books:

Three Snow Bears

The Hat

Gingerbread Baby

The Umbrella



Talk



One of the most important things you can do with your baby or toddler is respond to their babbling by babbling or talking back to them. It is called “serve and return” interaction. This short video explains what it does for your baby’s brain:

<http://tinyurl.com/Harvard-serve-return>

Ready to Write



Help your child develop the little “pinching” muscles in her fingers, which she’ll need in order to hold a pencil later on. Use a can of refrigerated biscuit dough to make a healthy Snowman Snack. Give your child two biscuits to place next to each other in a straight line on a piece of foil (to look like a snowman). Let her use pretzel sticks and raisins for the snowman’s arms, eyes, nose, mouth, and buttons. Place foil on a cookie sheet and bake as directed on the biscuit can. Serve with butter or honey. Enjoy on a cold winter day!

Play



Rhyme for Baby

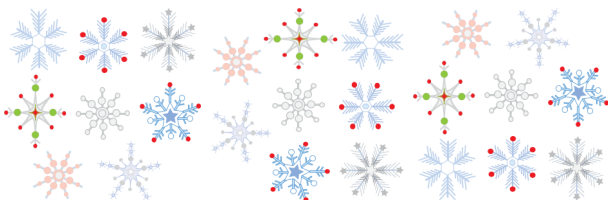
(lay baby on your lap)

Snowflakes falling on the ground,
(Wiggle fingers from high to low)

Snowflakes falling all around,
(Wiggle fingers around baby’s body)

Snowflakes falling, gently, see,
(Wiggle fingers where baby can see)

Snowflakes fall on you and me!
(Wiggle fingers and rest on baby’s tummy)



Sing



Toddler Snowkey Pokey

(Sung to the tune of the Hokey Pokey)

You put your right mitten in,
you take your right mitten out,
you put your right mitten in
and you shake it all about.
You do the snowkey pokey
and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about.

Additional verses:

You put your left mitten in...

You put your right boot in...

You put your left boot in...

You put your hat in...

You put your snowself in...



Hear the Hokey Pokey at

www.thelearninggroove.com/hokey-pokey

At your library...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is “*Tell Me a Tale.*” Libraries across the state are planning fun events that celebrate family reading.

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 12—18, 2017.