

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...

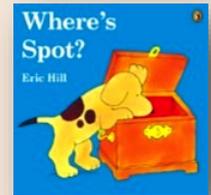


- ✦ Talk to your baby in “parentese,” which is talking in a sing-song way, stretching out your vowels.
- ✦ Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props. Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- ✦ Name things (real objects and pictures in books) as you go through the day. Use songs and 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!

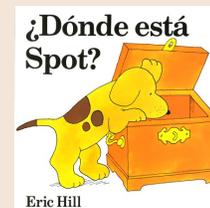
Read



Where's Spot? by Eric Hill



Playing hide-and-seek is a popular activity for young children. *Where's Spot?* is a book version of this game, as Spot's mom looks all over the house for her puppy. Children will be introduced to position words as they look under the flaps to find Spot.



Spot is the main character in a large collection of children's books by Eric Hill. This book is also available in Spanish.

Choosing Books



More Spot books...

Spot's Favorite Shapes

Spot Loves Bedtime

Get Well Soon, Spot

Spot Can Count

Spot's Baby Sister

Spot Goes to the Farm

Spot on the Move



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>

Play



Where’s Baby? Place handkerchief over baby’s head and pretend you cannot find her. Say, “Where’s (baby’s name)?” When baby pulls handkerchief off, clap and cheer and say, “Oh, there’s (baby’s name)!”

Guess Which Hand? As child watches place small toy in one of your hands, then close both hands into fists. Ask baby or toddler to choose the hand with the toy in it. If child selects correct hand, clap and cheer.

Play



Action Rhyme for Toddlers

(match actions to words)

Puppy dog, puppy dog, turn around.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, sit on the ground.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, sit and beg.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, stand on one leg.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, bark and wail!

Puppy dog, puppy dog, chase your tail!

Puppy dog, puppy dog, into bed you creep.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, go to sleep.

*Based on the traditional rhyme,
“Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear.”*



Sing



Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush

(Match actions, or sing while doing activities around the house)

Here we go ‘round the mulberry bush,
The mulberry bush, the mulberry bush;
Here we go ‘round the mulberry bush
On a cold and frosty morning.

This is the way we wash our hands,
We wash our hands, we wash our hands;
This is the way we wash our hands
On a cold and frosty morning.

Other verses...

This is the way we brush our hair...
This is the way we mend our shoes...
This is the way we scrub our clothes...
This is the way we dust our room...
This is the way we clap our hands...

<http://bussongs.com/songs/here-we-go-round-the-mulberry-bush.php>

At your library...



Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, now offers free “storytimes online” every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer or Smartphone.

DayByDayID.org
STORYTIMES ONLINE