

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...

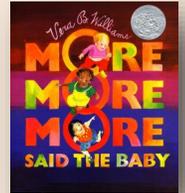


- ✦ Talk to your baby in “parentese,” which is talking in a sing-song way, stretching out your vowels.
- ✦ Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props. Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- ✦ Name things (real objects and pictures in books) as you go through the day. Use songs and 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; should we do that now? Yes, let’s change it now!”
- ✦ Use the language that is most comfortable for you.

Read



“More, More, More,” Said the Baby, by Vera Williams



This Caldecott Honor Book describes how three families show love to their babies through colorful artwork and catchy phrases.

A father, a grandmother, and a mother all do fun things with the baby that has them saying, “More, More, More!”

Choosing Books



Some books come in a board book format, but are not really very good books for babies and toddlers. **Look for books with:**

Bright, colorful, but simple pictures

Books with photographs, especially people

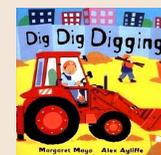
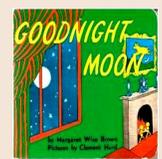
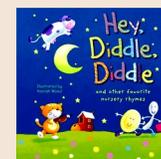
Short repeating phrases

Rhyming text

Pages with textures

Animals, animal sounds

Everyday objects or topics



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



In order to hold a pencil later on, young children need to practice tiny movements with their hands and fingers. Movements such as pinching, squeezing, pointing, patting, clapping, and bending fingers will give your baby or toddler practice moving different muscles in their hands.

Sing



Action Rhymes and Songs for Toddlers:

Ring Around the Rosie

*(Walk in a circle holding hands,
sit down on the last line)*

Ring around the rosie,
A pocket full of posies,
Ashes, ashes,
We all fall down!

www.nurseryrhymes.org/ring-a-ring-o-roses-ring-around-the-rosie.html

I’m a Little Teapot

(Match actions to words)

I’m a little teapot, short and stout,
Here is my handle, here is my spout.
When I get all steamed up, hear me shout,
“Tip me over, and pour me out!”



www.nurseryrhymes.org/im-a-little-teapot.html

Play



Lap Bounce for Baby: Mother and Father and Uncle John

Mother and Father and Uncle John
(bounce child on knee)*

Went to town, one by one.

Mother fell off *(tip to one side)*,

Father fell off *(tip to other side)*,

But Uncle John went on and on and on
and on and on and on

(bounce quickly — but gently)

See a video of this lap bounce at

www.wcccls.org/rhymes

(Washington County Cooperative Library Services)



**Never shake a baby. Always
bounce Baby gently on lap or knee.*

At your library...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is “*Fun and Games.*” 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 9—15, 2020.