

Did you know...



Research shows that young children who have spent a lot of time “talking” with adults learn more words, and this helps them become better readers. Knowing many words will help your child recognize and understand written words and language when it is time to learn to read.

Your baby or toddler talks with you, too! They start with cooing and gurgling sounds, then begin to babble. Older babies begin making different sounds such as “ma-ma-ma-ma” and “ba-ba-ba-ba,” and toddlers should begin using some words.

To see how you can talk with your child, and to learn about talking “milestones” for your child’s age, go to www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html

You can also sign up for a free “milestones” app!

Here’s how...

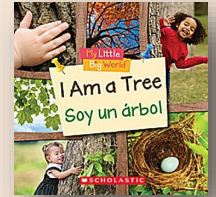


- ❖ Hearing language on TV is not as effective as talking directly with your child. Dressing and feeding your child are great opportunities for talking with them.
- ❖ Talk with your children in the language you speak at home. Building lots of words in their home language will help them build words in English as they get older.
- ❖ Tell your baby or toddler what you are doing as you go about your daily activities. “It’s cold outside, so we are putting on your coat and hat!” Describe what your baby is doing. “You’re smiling! I see you are happy today.”

Read



I Am a Tree/Soy un árbol, by Elodie Pope



Babies and toddlers love to look at and talk about books with photographs of things they recognize, such as those they can see in their yard or at the park.

April 22nd is Earth Day! Celebrate our planet by getting outside with your kids: take a walk, go to a park, go for a bike ride, and notice all the amazing things around you. Talk with your child about trees, flowers, animals, water, and different kinds of weather or landscape. Allow them to touch and feel and smell, and use lots of describing words!

Choosing Books



Books about nature:

Planting a Rainbow, by Lois Ehlert

All the World, by Liz Garton Scanlon

Lola Plants a Garden, by Anna McQuinn

Uh-Oh, by Shutta Crum

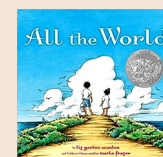
When Spring Comes, by Kevin Henkes

Clare Beaton’s Garden Rhymes, by Clare Beaton

Hello Baby! by Mem Fox

The Little Cloud, by Eric Carle

National Geographic’s *Look and Learn* series



Talk



Which one belongs? Being able to group things that are alike is an important skill for young children to develop. Collect some objects from a nature walk, such as leaves, nuts, and twigs. Mix these with other objects, such as small toys or kitchen items. Ask your toddler, “Which of these belongs to a tree? Does a leaf belong to a tree? Does a spoon belong to a tree?” Help him put correct objects in a separate basket or container. Have fun with other groups, such as Things That Belong to Kitty, Things That Belong to Mommy, Things That Belong in the Kitchen...

Ready to Write



If you have removable tape, such as painter’s or masking tape, stick some long strips on the floor or a table and let your toddler peel it up. The pinching and pulling motions will help make the tiny muscles in their fingers strong. Let them also explore how tape works, and give them words, such as “sticky” and “stuck.” Do not let your young children put tape in their mouths.

Play



Slowly, Slowly

Slowly, slowly, very slowly

(Slowly walk two fingers up child’s arm)

Creeps the garden snail.

(Keep going very slowly)

Slowly, slowly, very slowly,

(Walk fingers up other arm)

Up the garden trail. *(End at shoulder or neck)*

Quickly, quickly, very quickly,

(Run two fingers quickly up one arm)

Goes the little mouse.

Quickly, quickly, very quickly,

(Run fingers up other arm quickly)

To his little house!

(Tickle)



Sing



Little Seed

(Tune: “I’m a Little Teapot”)

I’ll plant a little seed in the dark, dark ground.

(bend down and plant a seed on the floor)

Out comes the yellow sun, big and round.

(raise arms to make a big circle over your head)

Down comes the cool rain, soft and slow.

(raise fingers up and down to make rain)

Up comes the little seed, grow, grow, grow!

(squat on the floor and rise up slowly)



From the King County Library System

<https://kcls.org/ill-plant-a-little-seed/>

At your library...



Look for books about the earth and nature at your local library. Some libraries have special Earth Day events planned. Visit your library’s website or give them a call!