

## 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 by how your child responds!

## Here's how ...

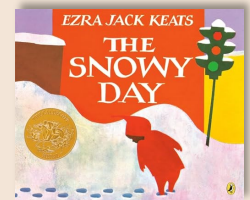


- ❖ Talk to your baby in “parentese,” which is talking in a sing-song way, stretching out your vowels.
- ❖ Retell stories with your child using puppets or props. Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- ❖ Name things (real objects and pictures in books) as you go through the day. Use songs and 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!”
- ❖ Read board books with your child and talk about what is happening in the pictures.
- ❖ Use the language that is most comfortable for you.

## Read

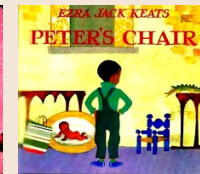
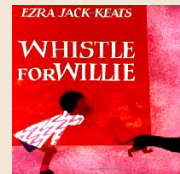


### *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats



In this Caldecott Award book, a small boy named Peter experiences the joy of a snowy day. This classic book was first published in 1962 and has been loved by many generations of children.

Ezra Jack Keats was one of the most important children's literature authors and illustrators of the 20th century. He was one of the first children's book authors to introduce and celebrate characters of different races in his stories.



## Choosing Books



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

Bright, colorful, but simple pictures

Books with photographs, especially people

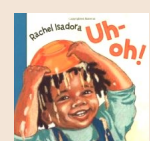
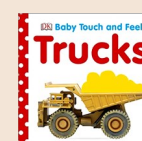
Short repeating phrases

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:



<https://tinyurl.com/Harvard-serve-return-5steps>

## Ready to Write



This warm snack will help your child use the little muscles in their fingers: Use refrigerated biscuit dough. Pinch one of the biscuits inward about two-thirds of the way up, giving the biscuit a head and a body (to look like a snowman). Place it on foil or parchment paper. Give your child 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 and share the treat. Enjoy on a cold winter day!

## Sing



### Snow, Snow

(to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

Snow, snow, see the snow,  
(hold hands high)

Falling to the ground,  
(flutter fingers down to floor)

Take some snow and pack it tight,  
(pack pretend snow in hands)

And make it nice and round.  
(form circle with hands)

## Play



### Five Little Snowmen

(Traditional)

Five little snowmen all in a row.

The first one said, “I’m not ready to go!”

The second one said, “We can stay ‘til spring.”

The third one said, “‘Til the robins sing.”

The fourth one said, “But then where will we go?”

The fifth one said, “To sleep, my friend, ‘til next year’s snow!” (place head on hands as if asleep)



Use puppets or stuffed animals to act this rhyme out with your child.

## At your library ...



Your family is welcome in the library, and your librarians care very much about you and your children. They are committed to helping every child get a great start, succeed in school, and create lifelong learners.

**Libraries are for everyone!**