

## 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.” 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](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html)

You can also sign up for a free milestones app!

## Here’s how ...

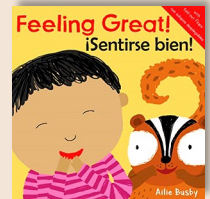


- ❖ Hearing language on TV is not as effective as talking directly with your child. Dressing and feeding your child are great opportunities for talking with them.
- ❖ Talk with your children in the language you speak at home. Building lots of words in their home language will help them build words in English as they get older.
- ❖ Look for books that teach concepts, such as numbers, colors, shapes, opposites, etc. These are things that will help your child be successful when they start kindergarten.

## Read



### ***Feeling Great!* *¡Sentirse bien!* by Ailie Busby**



Animals in this bilingual lift-the-flap book show different emotions that babies and toddlers also feel, such as happy, shy, and grumpy. Lift the flap on each page and ask your little one about times when they felt that emotion. “Chipmunk feels happy. What makes you happy? Can you make a happy face?” Naming and talking about common emotions gives your child the words to express how they are feeling.

## Choosing Books



### **More books like *Feeling Great!***

*Peek-a-Who?* by Nina Laden

*Blue Hat, Green Hat* by Sandra Boynton

*Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell

*Toes, Ears, and Nose!* by Marion Dane Bauer

*Making Faces: A First Book of Emotions* by Molly Magnuson

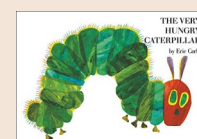
*Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard

*I Need a Hug* by Aaron Blabey

*Goodnight, Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown

*I Like Myself!* by Karen Beaumont

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle



## Talk and Play



Don't throw away those empty tissue boxes — turn them into mystery boxes!

**Babies:** Put scarves, ribbons, crumpled tissue paper, bubble wrap, fabric scraps, etc. inside the tissue box and let baby pull them out and explore. Be sure that none of the items can fit all the way inside baby's mouth. Talk to baby about colors, textures, sizes, and shapes using lots of descriptive words (soft, fuzzy, bumpy, red, inside, outside, under...).

**Toddlers:** Put objects that have something in common inside the box and let your toddler pull them out to explore. Change objects frequently. Ideas for different boxes: Shapes (all different shapes or all of one shape, such as "rectangles"), colors (all different colors or all of one color, such as "red"), textures, etc.



## Sing



### Old MacDonald Felt So Happy (tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")

Old MacDonald felt so happy,  
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA.  
And when he's happy, he sounds like this:  
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA.  
With a HA-HA here,  
And a HA-HA there,  
And a HA-HA-HA-HA everywhere,  
Old MacDonald felt so happy,  
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA.

[Repeat with]

... grumpy, NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!  
... sad, BOO-HOO-BOO-HOO-HOO.  
... silly, NAH-NAH, NAH, NAH, NAH.  
... shy, whisper-whisper-low.

Hear the tune at

[www.thelearninggroove.com/old-macdonald](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/old-macdonald).

At your library ...



## Ready to Write



Lift-the-flap books are books that have an extra piece of paper glued over part of the picture. When the flap is lifted, a surprise picture is underneath. You can find these kinds of books at yard sales, check them out from your library, or make them at home. Let your toddler practice lifting up the flaps using their thumb and first finger. The pinching and moving motion will help strengthen the little muscles in the fingers that are needed to hold and move a pencil later on.