

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.
- ✦ 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!”
- ✦ 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

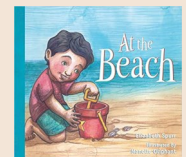
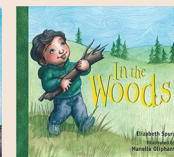
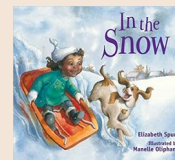


In the Rain, by Elizabeth Spurr



On a rainy day, a young child makes a paper boat, splashes in puddles, makes mud pies, and has lots of springtime fun. There is much for you and your child to talk about in these bright and detailed illustrations.

Other books in the series:



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

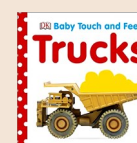
Short repeating phrases

Rhyming text

Pages with textures

Animals, animal sounds

Everyday objects or topics



Talk



Movement is a great way to help your toddler learn to talk, so don't let a rainy day keep you inside! Bundle your little one up and take a walk around the neighborhood to see what happens when it rains. Ask your child questions about what they see. Let your child jump over (or in!) puddles as they sing a song, such as the one below. Let them put twigs and leaves in streams of rain water and watch them go. Talk about what your child is doing as they are doing it. Have fun with your child and splash in a puddle or two yourself!

Ready to Write



Give your child a clean spray bottle filled with water and let them squirt things outside. They will need to use both hands. For extra fun, color on the sidewalk with chalk, then let your child spray the chalk away. This squeezing motion helps strengthen little muscles in your child's hands that will need to hold a pencil later on.

**Keep all spray bottles with cleaning fluid or other harmful liquids out of your child's reach.*

Play



Little Seed Action Song

(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 ...



In addition to books, many libraries offer equipment, supplies, tools, and instruments to support hobbies and crafts, sports and recreation, art and music, baking and gardening, and home repair and maintenance. Visit your library to see what is available in your area!

Sing



Rain, Rain, Go Away

Rain, rain, go away.

Come again another day.

Little *Johnny* (use your child's name)
wants to play.

Rain, rain, go away!

*Repeat, using other family names (Daddy,
Mommy, Sister, Brother, pets' names)*

Hear song at

<https://supersimple.com/song/rain-rain-go-away/>

