

## 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 ...

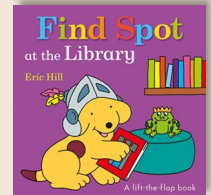


- ✦ Talk to your baby in “parentese,” which is talking in a sing-song way, stretching out your vowels.
- ✦ Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props. Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- ✦ Name things (real objects and pictures in books) as you go through the day. Use songs and 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



### **Find Spot at the Library by Eric Hill**



It's costume day at the library, and Spot and his friends get to choose book characters to dress up as. Lift the flaps and look for Spot in all the different corners of the library. Going to the library is an exciting first experience for toddlers, and Spot is no different - he loves reading with his family!

Spot is the main character in a large collection of children's books by Eric Hill. Look for Spot books, in both English and Spanish, at your local public library.

## Choosing Books



*Where's Spot?*  
*Spot's Favorite Shapes*  
*Spot Loves Bedtime*  
*Get Well Soon, Spot*  
*Spot Can Count*  
*Spot's Baby Sister*  
*Spot Goes to the Farm*  
*Spot on the Move*  
And more...



## 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



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.

## Play



### Action Rhyme for Toddlers

*(match actions to words)*

Puppy dog, puppy dog, turn around.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, sit on the ground.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, sit and beg.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, stand on one leg.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, bark and wail!

Puppy dog, puppy dog, chase your tail!

Puppy dog, puppy dog, into bed you creep.

Puppy dog, puppy dog, go to sleep.

*Based on the traditional rhyme,  
“Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear.”*



## Sing



### Oh Where, Oh Where, Has My Little Dog Gone?

Oh where, oh where, has my little dog gone?

Oh where, oh where can he be?

With his ears cut short and his tail cut long,

Oh where, oh where can he be?

To hear this song go to

<http://tinyurl.com/youtube-littledog>



## At your library ...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. Ask your librarian if the library is planning special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 6-12, 2023.