



Fostering Conversation

Plant the Seed of Learning

True or False

You should use “baby talk” with babies.

TRUE

You should use “baby talk” with babies.

“Baby talk” makes it easier for babies to figure out how language works and which words are most important to the meaning of what’s being said.

Parent Ease: over exaggerating sound when we speak and adding a “sing-song” rhythm to speech.

True or False

Speaking
“telegraphically” (limited
grammar- Mommy sleep.) helps
young children learn to talk.

FALSE

Speaking “telegraphically” helps young children learn to talk.

Telegraphic speech may hinder children’s learning of grammar and word meanings as it deprives children of the helpful cues and information that come from grammatical speech.

True or False

Using “educational” products, such as DVDs or flashcards stimulates young children’s language development.

FALSE

Using “educational” products, such as DVDs or flashcards stimulates young children’s language development.

DVDs may be the cause of somewhat smaller vocabularies in children who spend more time watching them. Flashcards teach memorization.

Play is more authentic!

True or False

Second- and third-born children are late to talk because their older siblings do the talking for them.

FALSE

Second- and third-born children are late to talk because their older siblings do the talking for them.

Several studies have shown that the language development and skills of first-born and later-born children are similar.

True or False

Boys talk later than girls.

TRUE

Boys talk later than girls.

It is true that boys produce their first words and sentences later than girls. However, these differences are only in terms of a matter of a few months.

Oral Language Development

- Children first need to understand the purpose of language.
- The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association defines language as “A code made up of rules that include what words mean, how to make words, how to put them together, and what word combinations are best in what situations. Speech is the oral form of language.”
- www.asha.org/public/speech/development
- **VIDEO OF TWINS**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JmA2ClUvUY&sns=em

Relationships Matter

- It is not just the quantity of words young children are exposed to but also the quality of the interactions they have with adults that fosters language acquisition.
- There is strong correlation between caregiver responsiveness and vocabulary growth rates over children's first and second years.

Conversations Matter

- What parents and caregivers talk about may be more important than how much they talk.
- When parents expand and repeat children's first words, language development improves.
- Infants and young children can only use the language they hear, if they can connect it to particular objects.

(www.ounceofprevention.org)

Using simple books, singing songs, talking about what you are doing during daily tasks, repeating sounds to get your baby to mimic you.

What can parents do to help?

- **Watch.** Your baby may reach both arms up to say she wants to be picked up, hand you a toy to say she wants to play, or push food off her plate to say she's had enough. Smile, make eye contact, and respond to encourage these early, nonverbal attempts at baby talk.
- **Listen.** Pay attention to your baby's cooing and babbling, and coo and babble those same sounds right back to your baby. Babies try to imitate sounds their parents are making and to vary pitch and tone to match the language heard around them. So be patient and give your baby lots of time to “talk” to you.
- **Praise.** Smile and applaud even the smallest or most confusing attempts at baby talk. Babies learn the power of speech by the reactions of adults around them.
- **Imitate.** Babies love to hear their parents' voices. And when parents talk to them it helps speech develop. The more you talk their “baby talk” with them, using short, simple but correct words, such as “dog” when your baby says “daw,” the more babies will keep trying to talk.

- **Elaborate.** If your baby points to the table and makes noise, don't just give him more noodles. Instead, point to the noodles and say, "Do you want some more noodles? These noodles taste good with cheese, don't they?"
- **Narrate.** Talk about what you're doing as you wash, dress, feed, and change your baby – "Let's put on these blue socks now" or "I'm cutting up your chicken for you" -- so your baby connects your speech to these objects and experiences.
- **Let your child lead.** During playtime, follow your child's attention and interests to show that communication is a two-way game of talking and listening, leading, and following.
- **Play.** Encourage children to play, pretend, and imagine out loud to develop verbal skills as they become toddlers .
- **Read aloud.** Lifelong readers come from young children who have plenty of fun, relaxing experiences of being read to out loud.

Oral Stimulation

Oral Stimulation

- Toothbrushes
- textured teethers
- various temperatures (warm/frozen wash cloths)
- New foods with different textures



Muscle Strengthening

- Straws/straw cups (cheeks)
- making raspberries (lips)
- making silly faces (lips, cheeks)
- put applesauce on baby's lips and let them lick it off (tongue)
- repetitive sounds (lips--ma, ma, ma, ma, ma...tongue--da, da, da, da,...la, la, la, la, la)
- **Jimmy Fallon video**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=forSVFj2Elo&sns=em>

Exposure Leads to Foundations for Learning

With exposure to the right stimulation and guidance, infants and toddlers grow into preschoolers with solid social-emotional and language and literacy skills.

Books Matter

- Reading books to your child will assist with language development as the structures and words used in books are more varied than those in speech.
- Children's language development begins with cooing and babbling and moving to words and sentences.

(Snow, Burns, Giffin, 1998) (www.shanahanonliteracy.com)
(eclkc.ohs.hhs.gov)

Your Baby CAN Talk *and Sing*

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcRYoRvBD64>

Pop Goes the Weasel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaYrvaWTJso>