

Grow the Seed of Learning

Oral Language Development



Toddler's Growing Brain- Brain Cells Connect

- By age 3, the number of neurons remains relatively stable
- Each cell becomes bigger and heavier
- Dendrites branch out to receive signals from other neurons.



Making Connections

- The brain's "wiring" is created over time.
- Stimulation and experience plays a crucial role in "wiring" a young child's brain.
- A Child's environment has enormous impacts on the development of brain cells.
- If the connections are not used repeatedly, or often enough, they are eliminated.

Language Development

- All normal, healthy babies learn to talk.
- All do not get the same stimulation.
- Repetition is critical when learning language.
- Strengthening and expanding the connections help in learning more words.

Language Development

- At every reading, something new is learned. Reading the same book over and over again is helpful.
- Words and language are the foundation of all learning
- But – not just any words
- Not flash cards, memorization, television
- Importance of “rich” language environment

WHAT IS A RICH LANGUAGE ENVIRONMENT?

RICH	POOR
Responds to toddlers's cues, moods	Attends to child's basic needs
Talk to and with toddler	Talk “ at ” toddler
Lots of laptime	Placed in playpen or baby gate area
Songs, story telling	Little personal interaction
Word play – rhymes, silly sounds	Put in front of TV
Reading, sharing books	No age-appropriate books
Didactic dialog/interaction	One way communication
Hears complex vocabulary regularly	Hears mainly TV and sounds in the room
Encourage to ask questions	Told to hush

A Rich Language Environment.. Why?

- By two years of age, children's vocabulary correlates with later cognitive performance (Peggy Sissel-Phelan, Words to Grow On)
- Children's language evolves primarily through parent-child interactions

Language and Literacy

- **Reading to Baby = More Words**
- Twice as many verbal exchanges
- Twice as many words
- Increased number of unusual and complex words
- Greater complexity of sentence structure

Grow Your Child's Vocabulary...

Through music, repetitive reading, and stimulating conversations.

