

9 Tips to Boost Your Baby's Language Development



better beginnings
EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

Babies whose parents frequently talk to them know 300 more words by age 2 than babies whose parents rarely speak to them.

Here are some tips on how to get your baby talking.

- 1.** Talk about what's going on. Whether you're changing a diaper, bathing your baby or taking a walk, use words that describe the actions and the things around your baby. You'll help him develop vocabulary before he can even talk.



- 2.** Sing songs and nursery rhymes over and over. Your newborn baby will find the sound of your voice calming and enjoy the playful rhythms of the music.

- 3.** Babies babble. It's how they learn to make sounds with their own voices. Repeat these sounds and turn them into real words. You'll help your baby recognize which sounds form language.



- 4.** Reward your baby's first tries at making sounds with smiles and hugs. Your approval will encourage him to keep trying.

- 5.** Once your baby starts talking, help her find the words for the things around her. By repeating words, you'll help your child remember them.



- 6.** Read to your baby. Make storytime a part of your baby's routine, such as before naps or at bedtime. Even just talking about some of the pictures is enjoyable for young babies.



- 7.** When your baby is ready to hold objects, provide soft books with pages that are easy to turn and interesting textures to feel.

- 8.** Ask questions. When you say, "What's that?" and then name the picture in a book, it teaches your baby that things have names.



- 9.** Use rhymes, games and songs. Babies respond to them almost from birth. For your newborn or very young baby, try rhymes that involve gentle touch, such as patting her feet together or giving her a little bounce while you hold her.

Resources: Born Learning, Kid Basics and <http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca>.