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9 Ways to Boost Your Baby's Language Development



Babies whose parents talk to them often develop language at a faster rate. These babies 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, talk, talk**

If your baby is awake, you should be talking to him. Talk about what is happening. Describe objects with words like soft, blue or cold.

2. **Sing and dance**

Babies find the sound of your voice soothing. Songs with movement are even better. Pat your baby's hands together or bounce his feet. You'll be dancing together before you know it!

3. **Babble back**

Acknowledge your baby's attempts at talking by answering with the same sounds.

4. **Reward your baby**

Give lots of kisses and hugs every time your baby tries to communicate.

5. **Name names**

Use "real" names for the things around her. Repeating the names of things helps your baby learn.

6. **Read to your baby**

Make reading part of your daily bonding. Your voice soothes and relaxes her.

7. **Give your baby soft books**

Puffy pages are easier to turn. Most soft books have textures you can talk to him about.

8. Ask questions

"What's that?" Point to a picture in a book and name the object.

9. Play!

Peekaboo and Patty Cake are standards for using repetition to teach words. Try asking, "Where's your nose?" Show your baby her nose. Move on to name other parts of the body. Tickles are allowed. Repeat often.

[View/Download the PDF version here.](#) (Right click and choose "Save Link As" to download)

[Click here to visit our Family Resource Library.](#) You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.

Connecting with Kids



Introduction to Language Development and Emergent Literacy Domains for Young Infants (birth to 8 months)

Did you know infants have an inborn ability to communicate by crying to signal pain or distress? As they grow, babies will smile and coo to show pleasure, and they respond to voices, watch facial expressions and turn their head to locate the speaker visually.

These facts and much more can be accessed in the Language Development and Emergent Literacy curriculum at the Better Beginnings website. To download this lesson, visit ARBetterBeginnings.com.

For more curriculum and supplements, visit [Better Beginnings website](#).

Adventures for Toddlers: Focus Area #8 - Animals



Caterpillars, butterflies, worms and insects - oh, my! In Adventures for Toddlers, preschoolers will learn all about the tiny creatures creeping and crawling outdoors in the spring.

Preschool children enjoy discovering a worm under a rock or leaf. They notice a beautiful butterfly as it hovers over a flower. They watch in amazement as they see their first firefly. The outdoor environment is teeming with insects that crawl and fly, with caterpillars, butterflies and worms. Thus a study of caterpillars, butterflies, worms and insects is a natural for children.

This section in Adventures for Toddlers links together science, technology, engineering and math into what is called STEM curriculum. This section, Caterpillars, Butterflies, Worms and Insects, focuses on the science component of STEM.

To learn more, visit ARBetterBeginnings.com and click [Curriculum and Supplements](#).

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