

For information about speech and
language development, call:

1-888-537-5741

or

Visit your local
Ontario Early Years Centre.
Call 1-800-484-4454 to find the
location nearest you.

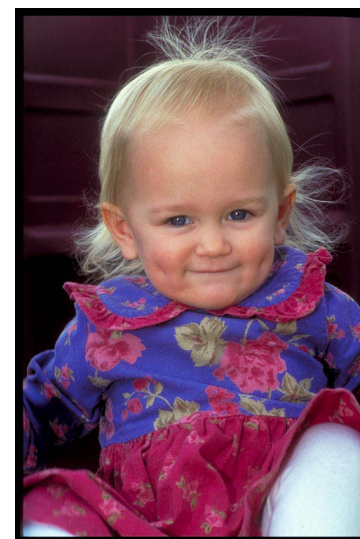


superior children's centre
centre supérieur d'enfants

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Adapted from the Can We Talk booklet designed by
Sandy White, Early Literacy Consultant,
Niagara Region.

Let's Talk



Parents as Partners
in Early Learning

Did you know??

Your baby's brain develops more from birth to six years than in any other time in his life.



Your child needs to hear lots of words to develop listening and speaking skills.

You are your child's first and most important teacher.



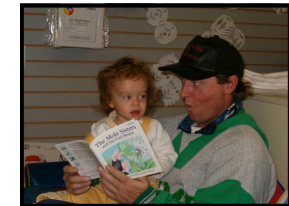
Provide all kinds of experiences and talk about what is happening.



Sing songs and rhymes. Use movements too.

*Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are*

Read stories together in a cozy place. Let your baby play with board books. Name things and ask her to point to them.



Provide toys of different colours, shapes and sizes: ones that he can put into containers and take out again. Name the toys, colours and shapes.

From 10 to 12 months, your baby:

- says first word
- responds to familiar words
- jabbbers with expression
- uses gestures or sounds to indicate wants and needs
- responds to yes and no questions
- consistently uses three words

You can . . .

Model language.

I see that you are tired. Let's go and have a nap.



Listen to your baby and try to understand what she's saying.

Don't correct your baby's attempts to speak. If he says "goggie", you say "Yes that is a **doggie**. A big **doggie**."

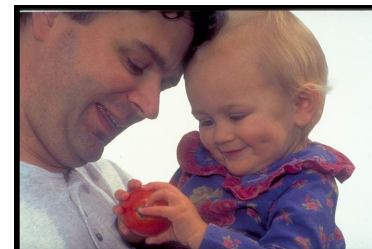
Parents as Partners

In infancy, your baby's cry lets you know that she wants something.

Watch and listen so that you can get an idea about what your baby is trying to say. Wait to answer. Your baby needs time to get his message across.

Share your baby's interests. If she knows that you are interested in her, she'll want to communicate with you.

Help him to learn and use language. It is one of the greatest gifts that you can give!



From birth to 3 months, your baby:

- recognizes voices
- responds with body movements
- makes brief eye contact
- smiles
- coos, chuckles, gurgles
- turns towards and reacts to sounds
- cries differently for different needs

You can . . .

Talk about what is going on.

Hold your baby so she can see
your face and eyes.
Have fun together.



Copy baby's sounds. He says
Ooo, you say *Ooo*

Use your face and body with your words.
Big smile—arms outstretched.
Oh, you're such a big girl!

Copy her sounds. She
says *ma ma*, you say
ma ma. Make new
sounds for her to copy.
Take turns as you
“talk” together.



Read picture books over and over. Name
things in the pictures. Help your baby turn the
pages. Let him play with books. He might
even chew on them!



Sing songs with noises
like “Old MacDonald”.
Use plastic animals to
act out the song.

Play games like
Peek-a-Boo. Use
different covers to
pull off her head.
Make it fun.



From 7 to 9 months, your baby:

- recognizes own name
- babbles a series of sounds—mamama, dadada
- makes 4 or more different sounds
- recognizes family member names and names of common objects
- responds with gestures to your gestures and words

You can. . .

Be at your baby's eye level, so that he can see you. Get down on the rug and play face to face.



Use body movements to give messages. Point up if you are looking at a plane.

That plane is way, way up in the sky.

Understand baby's feelings. If she laughs, you laugh.
Oh, what a happy baby!



Sing songs while you gently rock him.

Soothe your baby. If he is crying, there is a reason. Try to find out what's wrong.



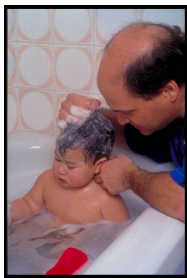
Share short, simple, picture books with your baby. Hold your baby close.

From 4 to 6 months, your baby:

- coos and makes random sounds
- begins to babble—playing with own voice and trying out sounds
- begins to imitate some simple sounds that another person makes
- smiles and laughs out loud
- makes noises to get attention
- expresses pleasure and displeasure

You can . . .

Take turns speaking. Talk to your baby and wait for her to coo or babble back.



Take time to play and talk throughout the day—while dressing, feeding and at bath time.

Talk to your baby about things happening around him.

Help her to use all of her senses:
sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell.



Snuggle baby while you read stories. Point to pictures and name them. *Here is a cow. The cow says “Mooo”*

Repeat rhymes and songs over and over again. Use rhymes that include body parts. *This little piggy went to market.*

Share lots of hugs and cuddles. Babies need to feel loved.



Play different kinds of music. Listening to sounds helps your baby to learn. Rock, sway, sing and laugh to the rhythm.