

MOMENTS OF CONNECTION

TIPS FOR TALKING WITH YOUR BABY

Babies learn language through everyday interactions with people. Your talk, songs, stories, and routines – in any language – help your baby learn to communicate. They may need extra time to listen and respond, but these early conversations help build communication skills and a strong connection between you and your baby. In fact, babies are so interested in language that they begin listening to sounds and melodies of familiar voices before they're born!

TRY!

SING-SONGY SPEECH IS SPECIAL

WHY?

Use a warm and sing-songy voice, stretch out important words, make funny sounds, and use big facial expressions. It doesn't even matter what you say!

Babies around the world enjoy this unique way we talk with them. It keeps their attention and helps them hear the different sounds within words.

TRY!

TAKE TURNS

WHY?

Respond to your baby's smiles, babbles, coos, noises, and gestures as if they are talking with you. Pause and give them time to respond back.

Having these back-and-forth interactions helps babies learn how conversations work.

TRY!

FOLLOW BABY'S FOCUS

WHY?

Talk about what your baby is already looking at, touching, or listening to.

Learning is easier when babies hear words for things they are already interested in and focusing on.

TRY!

THE POWER OF PEEKABOO

WHY?

Play peekaboo or make up your own simple games.

Playing simple games helps create shared moments of joy, laughter, and bonding. Playing them regularly helps your baby learn to predict what comes next and practice taking turns.

TRY!

PAUSE

WHY?

Remember to pause sometimes during stories, rhymes, games, and songs so your baby can join in.

Your baby is working hard! Pausing for a few seconds gives them a chance to process.

TRY!

GESTURES ARE LANGUAGE TOO

WHY?

Point to objects, wave, clap, and use facial expressions when you talk with your baby.

Gestures help babies connect words with their meanings and gain new ways to communicate.

TRY!

BOND WITH BABY BOOKS

WHY?

Explore books and follow your baby's lead to any page they like. Chat about and point to pictures, name things, and have fun with sounds.

Books unlock many new words! Babies learn to recognize and understand new words the more they see and hear them.

TRY!

TURN DOWN THE NOISE

WHY?

Turn off the TV and put away noisy toys and devices.

Loud noises create distractions, interruptions, and stress for you and your baby. To learn language, babies must be able to hear and focus.

TRY!

LESS SCREEN TIME, MORE TALK TIME

WHY?

In their first two years, limit screen time to only video calls with family.

To learn language, babies need to be part of real conversations and interact with people around them.

TRY!

CHEER THEM ON

WHY?

Respond warmly when your baby makes sounds or gestures.

Your interest and excitement encourages your baby and shows them that their words, sounds, and gestures matter.