

Talk With Me Baby ~ Language Nutrition Begins at Birth!



FEED ME WORDS



All parents want the best for their baby. And we know healthy food helps grow a healthy baby.

But to grow a healthy brain, a babies need more. Babies need lots of loving words.



BABIES NEED LOTS OF LOVING WORDS

Research shows that the number of loving words a baby hears in the first three years of life is the best predictor of success in school and in life.

WHY IT MATTERS

Children's brains grow super fast in the first three years of life. And research shows that the number of loving words a baby hears is the best predictor of success in school and in life.

85% of brain growth occurs in the first 3 years of life.



THE PROCESS

ENGAGE: I Do
coach models skills



- **Talk directly with the baby**—describe what you are doing.
- Direct questions and comments to the baby: "Hi baby, how are you feeling this morning?"
- Use **child-directed speech** and **serve and return**.

SHARE: We Do
coach and caregiver practice together



- **Invite parent to join you in talking with the baby:**
"Momma, see how I talked with your baby? Let's try having you talk with him."
- Present **TIPS**.
- Practice together.
- Add **educational interactions:**
"Have you heard that talking with your baby helps her learn?"

ENCOURAGE: You Do
caregiver practices alone

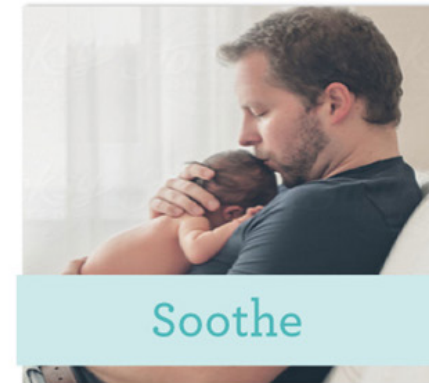


- **Encourage the parent to practice talking with the baby in your presence.**
- **Give feedback,** "You are doing great!"
- **Highlight accomplishments:**
"See how your baby responded when he heard your voice?"
- **Encourage the use of the home language.**

Tips for Talking With Your Baby

- Talk with your baby every day in whatever language you use to say “I love you.”
- Use and repeat lots of words with big facial expressions to emphasize what you say.
- Ask questions, sing songs, describe your surroundings including numbers, colors, and shapes.
- Talk about the things you are doing and seeing at the moment.
- Read books out loud pointing to letters, words, and pictures.
- Pause after you talk with your baby to give her a chance to respond with a smile or gesture.
- Use a high pitch, gentle, melodic tone.

LANGUAGE ELEMENTS



RESOURCES

Go to www.talkwithmebaby.org for research documents, a robust toolkit that includes videos and training resources, and other helpful information for parents and practitioners—all in English and Spanish!

For the latest resources, news, and program opportunities in family literacy, visit: <http://barbarabush.org/>

For a narrative and visual representation of children’s literacy progression Pre-K through the end of 3rd grade, go to Section 2 and Appendix B of this Practice Guide: <http://barbarabush.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Extending-and-Enhancing-Literacy-Learning-in-Afterschool-Programs.pdf>



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