

THE NEWBURGH BASICS



TALK, SING, AND POINT



Turn over for tips on the *Talk, Sing, and Point* Basic.



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INFANTS (0-12 MONTHS)

TALK A LOT

Talk to your baby from the time they are born during activities like changing, feeding, bathing, and errands. Describe what you are doing. Label the objects around you by naming and pointing to them.

GO BACK AND FORTH

When your baby makes a sound, show excitement in your face and voice! Respond to their sound with words. See how long you can keep the “conversation” going. It is very powerful when the two of you can stay focused on each other for a while.

USE A PLAYFUL VOICE

Talk with a gentle, playful voice. Exaggerate the sounds of the words. This may feel silly at first, but it is actually very important. Babies pay extra attention and learn more when you talk this way.

USE REAL WORDS

Don't just use “baby talk,” also use real words. The more words your baby hears, the larger their vocabulary will grow. Think of words as nourishment for your baby's brain!

SING

Sing songs to your baby. This is a fun way for them to learn language. You might have certain songs for special times of the day, like bath time or before bedtime.

USE ANY LANGUAGE

It doesn't matter what language you speak with your infant. All languages are equally beneficial.

TODDLERS (12-36 MONTHS)

DESCRIBE LIFE

Talk about the things you're doing and what is going on around you. Have conversations as you walk around the neighborhood or do errands.

BE SPECIFIC

The more specific you can be with words, the more your child will learn. For example, instead of saying “Let's go,” you could say, “Let's go shopping at the grocery store to buy some food.”

ADD IDEAS

Help grow your child's vocabulary by expanding on what he says. For example, if he says “doggie,” you can respond with, “Yes, that is a doggie. That doggie is brown and soft.”

LISTEN AND RESPOND

Listen to your toddler's questions and answer them. Have a conversation. This is when the most powerful learning takes place.

ASK QUESTIONS

Get your toddler thinking. Have them explain what they are doing or what they think is going to happen. You may get some funny answers!

USE YOUR HANDS

When you talk about something, point to it. This helps your child understand what you mean. Encourage your child to point too. “Can you point to the triangle?” This will help them connect new words to the objects they represent.

SING AND RECITE

Sing songs and recite nursery rhymes. Choose ones you remember from your own childhood, read in books, or make up new ones.

For more, visit www.newburghbasics.org