

Games to Play with Babies

Let's Talk

Talking with a young infant is very important for the development of their language. Young babies enjoy hearing your voice and love to hear their own voice. When you talk with a young baby and repeat the sounds they say, you encourage them to eventually repeat sounds and words they hear developing their language and literacy skills.



What to Do

- Hold the baby close to you so they can see your face
- Repeat any sounds you hear the baby make; "GA-GA", DA-DA"
- Observe the baby trying to use their voice by moving their lips and tongue. Wait for the baby to make a sound again
- Encourage the baby by giving them time to talk and respond to you.
- Praise the baby for their attempts to communicate with you. "You're Talking!"
- Continue to take turns talking with your baby

Games to Play with Toddlers

Read to Me

Young children benefit from reading with you. As you spend time reading to toddlers, take time to allow them look at the pictures, point to them and talk about what they see. This will keep them more engaged and they will increase their vocabulary and their language and literacy skills.

What to Do

- Create a cozy area to sit comfortably and establish a reading routine
- Watch the child as you read a page. If they look at something on the page, take time to talk about the pictures; describe what they are, the colors, shapes...
- Continue to read books over and over. As long as they are listening, they are learning
 - Ask questions about pictures on page. *Can you show me where the boat is?* Have them point to familiar objects
 - Encourage them to repeat words
 - Start a new book by simply looking at the pictures. Have them name objects they can identify. If they can't name an object, have them point to it.

