

Talking with your baby

Learning to talk is one of the most important and complex skills your child will accomplish. It seems to happen naturally, but in fact you have a very important role to play. The more you talk to your baby, the more you enable her to become a good talker and a confident, happy child.

- Talk about what you're doing throughout the day – when you're bathing or feeding your baby, or changing her nappy.
- Talk about the things you see on the way to the shops, or at the supermarket. Try to talk about the things your child shows an interest in.
- Talk in the language that you know best. It doesn't have to be English.
- Look at your baby as you talk and give him time to respond to your chatter.
- Answer your baby's noises and babbles.
- Cuddle up together and read a favourite book or talk about the pictures.



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- Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs, especially those with actions.
- Listen carefully and give your toddler time to finish talking.
- If your toddler says something incorrectly, say it back the right way e.g. "Goggy bited it." "Yes, the dog bit it, didn't he."
- Try to watch TV together so you can talk about what happens.