



## IDEAS TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO TALK

<b>BIRTH</b>	<p><b>Help your baby learn how nice voices can be.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sing to your baby. You can do this even before your baby is born! Your baby will hear you.</li><li>• Talk to your baby. Talk to others when Baby is near. Baby won't understand the words, but will like your voice and your smile. Baby will enjoy hearing and seeing other people, too.</li><li>• Plan for quiet times. Baby needs time to babble and play quietly without TV or radio or other noises.</li></ul>
<b>3 MONTHS</b>	<p><b>Help your baby see how people talk to each other.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hold your baby close so she or he will look in your eyes. Talk to Baby and smile.</li><li>• When your baby babbles, imitate the sounds.</li><li>• If Baby tries to make the same sounds you do, smile and say the sounds again.</li></ul>
<b>6 MONTHS</b>	<p><b>Help your baby understand words (even if he or she can't say them yet).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Play games like Peek-a-Boo or Pat-a-Cake. Help Baby move his hands to match the game.</li><li>• When you give Baby a toy, say something about it (e.g: teddy's nice and soft)</li><li>• Let your baby see himself in a mirror and ask, "Who's that?" If he doesn't respond, say his name.</li><li>• Ask your baby questions, like "Where's the dog?" If he doesn't respond, show him where.</li></ul>
<b>9 MONTHS</b>	<p><b>Help your baby 'talk' by pointing and using his or her hands.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show Baby how to wave 'bye-bye'. Say to Baby "Show me your nose", then point to your nose. He will soon point to his nose. Do this with toes, fingers, ears, eyes, knees, and so on.</li><li>• Hide a toy while Baby is watching. Help Baby find it. Share his delight at finding it.</li><li>• When Baby points or gives you something, talk about the object with him.</li></ul>



<b>12 MONTHS</b>	<p><b>Help your child to say the words she or he knows.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk about the things you use, like cup, juice, doll. Give him time to name them.</li><li>• Ask your child questions about the pictures in books. Give your child time to name things in the picture.</li><li>• Smile or clap your hands when your child names the thing that he sees. Say something about it.</li></ul>
<b>15 MONTHS</b>	<p><b>Help your child talk with you.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk about what your child wants most to talk about. Give him time to tell you all about it.</li><li>• Ask about things you do each day. “Which socks will you wear today?” “Do you want milk or juice?”</li><li>• When your child says just 1 word, like “ball”, repeat it, adding a word or two. E.g.: “That’s Baby’s ball”.</li><li>• Pretend your child’s favourite doll or toy animal can talk. Have conversations with the toy.</li></ul>
<b>18 MONTHS</b>	<p><b>Help your child put words together and learn how to follow simple directions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask your child to help you. For example, ask him to put his cup on the table.</li><li>• Teach your child simple songs and nursery rhymes. Read to your child.</li><li>• Encourage your child to talk to friends and family. A child can tell them about a new toy, for example.</li><li>• Let your child play ‘telephone’. Have a pretend telephone conversation.</li></ul>
<b>2 YEARS</b>	<p><b>Help your child put more words together. Teach your child things that are important to know.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach your child to say his or her first and last name.</li><li>• Ask about the number, size and shape of things your child shows you. If it’s worms, you could say: “What fat wiggly worms! How many are there? Where are they going?”</li><li>• Wait, watch, and listen to the answer. Suggest an answer if needed: “I can see five. Are they going to the park or to the shops?”</li><li>• Ask your child to tell you the story that goes with a favourite book.</li><li>• Check your local library for programmes for toddlers.</li><li>• Your child still needs quiet times. This is not just for sleeping. Turn off the TV and radio and let your child enjoy quiet play, singing, and talking.</li></ul>