

Language Development – The Crawl Space

We must observe their faces, their eyes, and their hands, because it is here that words, actions, and feelings are born. It is here that we find the meaning of what they do. – Sonia Cipolla and Evelina Riverberi



What are children learning in The Crawl Space?

Infants begin to learn language from day one. They are constantly receiving information about their world from listening to the adults in their lives communicate with each other and with them. The items in The Crawl Space are designed to evoke curiosity and excitement in children, and to provide you with interesting objects to describe to.

Consider these links between learning and language development:

- Talking to babies increases their vocabulary, which will make learning to read easier.
- Reading to babies also increases vocabulary by exposing them to things they might not otherwise see, such as – tigers or volcanoes. It also helps babies to understand that pictures and printed words on a page carry meaning.
- When you play a game with babies, sing a song, or ask them questions and wait for a response, they will understand that communication is an exchange between two people.

What can I do to support my child's language development?

- Respond verbally to your child when he or she gestures for an object.
- Let your child turn the pages and touch the board books. Look for illustrations of familiar objects and name them for him or her.
- Walk around The Crawl Space with your baby, describing everything you see and do.
- Allow your child to touch the puppets, the mirror, and the floor as you describe the textures.

More resources:

Articles on developmental milestones, activities, and advice: <http://www.parents.com/age/babies.jsp>

How Babies Talk: The Magic and Mystery of Language in the First Three Years of Life, by Roberta Michnick Golinkoff Ph.D., Kathy Hirsh-Pasek Ph.D., Plume Printing, 2000



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