

The WONDER CABINET WISDOM

Language Development - The Crawl Space

Infants learn language from day one by listening to the adults in their lives as they communicate with each other and with them.

Ways to support your baby's language development:

- * **Talk with your baby:** Talk about the weather or what you ate for lunch. Narrate what your baby is doing, or what textures they feel. Talking helps build vocabulary and communication skills.
- * **Sing with your baby:** Singing or speaking in a higher pitched voice helps babies focus their attention on the words you say.
- * **Read daily with your baby:** Let them hold board books - they can even put them in their mouth! Encourage them to turn the pages. Point to objects as you read to help them make the connection between the word and what it represents.
- * **Ask your baby questions:** When you ask questions, wait for a reply from your baby and then respond back with words, a gesture or a facial expression. This helps babies begin to understand that communication is an exchange between two people.



Why is this important?

Talking, singing and reading to babies helps them learn to communicate, an essential life skill that helps children express their needs and understand the needs of others. To do so effectively, they must develop the skill of figuring out what they want to communicate and understand how others may interpret it.

*Adapted from Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs by Dr. Ellen Galinsky
www.mindinthemaking.org*

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