

# TALK TO YOUR BABY!

Your infant will move his/her mouth like he/she is talking. Answer your baby by saying something like "that is a great story, tell me more"

From birth your baby is listening, so keep talking. This is so important for their language development and their social skills

Sing to your baby, even if you don't think you sound great. Your baby will love hearing your voice, and any song will do.

Turn off the TV or radio so your child can hear your voice.

When you baby makes cooing noises have a conversation by copying the sounds and make sure you are looking at your baby

Games are a great way to talk together and you don't need any fancy toys;. Count your baby's toes or play tickling games.

You don't have to just sing 'baby' songs - it can be the latest chart music. If you like the song, your baby will enjoy it too.

Sing the nursery rhymes you know. Take a trip to the library and borrow Books of Rhymes and tapes. Look at your baby as you sing or chant and see how he reacts to different parts of the rhyme. Can you see his fingers wriggle?

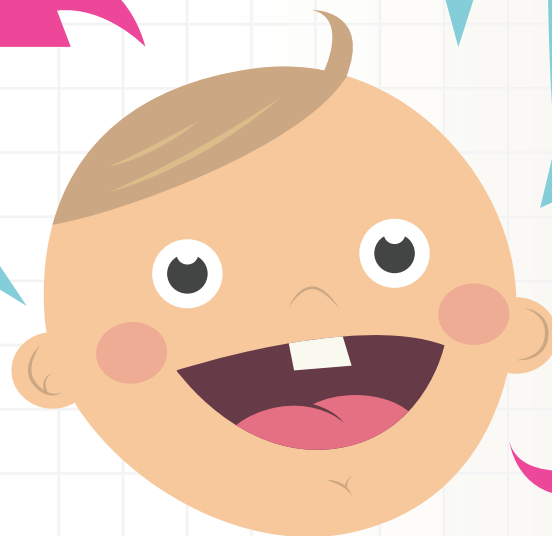
Young children learn best through play, so make songs and rhymes fun. Change the sound of your voice, make up some actions or add your child's name or the names of family and friends.

When your baby is tired or upset try singing a favourite song, slowly and quietly, to comfort him/her.

Never put any pressure on your child to name the pictures in a storybook, but if her/she copies your words say the words again for him/ her. Don't read for too long. Young children get bored quickly so little and often is best.

When your baby or toddler joins in, show that you've noticed by giving lots of encouragement.

When reading a story to your child, talk about the pictures. If there's a picture of a dog, talk about a dog that you know. Give your child time to respond to your chatter.



Remember when reading to young children you are not teaching them to read .... you are developing their language, and social skills and giving them a love of books!