

Enhancing Your Baby's Language Development

Talk to your baby about things he sees in his environment.

Respond positively when your baby babbles and coos.

Imitate sounds you hear your baby make to show your interest and delight. Make feeding time a time to bond and connect with your baby. Eye contact, smiles and a soothing voice will help foster a connection as well as interest in communicating.

Label animals, objects and toys in your child's world, and eventually begin to ask him to name them for you.

Expose your baby to a wide variety of environments.

Talk about things as you are doing them with your baby (for example, "Tommy's taking a bath", or "let's go for a ride in the car").

Expand on your baby's phrases. If your child says "Mommy eat", acknowledge your understanding and expand by saying "yes, Mommy is eating a cookie"),

Receptive language comes before expressive language, so remember that your baby will understand and recognize things before he is able to express them.

Read to your baby every day. Starting this practice early will help encourage language development.

Engage in play with your baby. Encourage him to touch and manipulate toys while you talk about what he is doing.

Repeat things often. Repetition is very important in the learning process. Most of all-have fun!!