

#TALKINGISTEACHINGTIPS CALENDAR



Talk, read, and sing with your children every day! Simple interactions like the ones below can help boost children's brain and language development, setting them up for success in school and beyond. Please share photos of your family talking, reading, and singing using the hashtag #TalkingIsTeachingTips.

- 1 On a sheet of paper, write your child's name in big letters. Together, color the letters and talk about the sounds in your baby's name! "S...A...M!"
- 2 Your baby loves to clap and sing, and when you sing together, you help build her brain. Have fun with letters by singing along to the alphabet song!
- 3 Have fun with sounds by playing a rhyming game. With your little one, take turns coming up with rhymes. How many can you think of? "Blue...shoe...glue!"
- 4 Letters are everywhere! Play a scavenger hunt with your child by looking for letters of the alphabet in your home. "Let's find the letter 'H'!"
- 5 With your little one, talk about the sounds each letter makes. "What does 'T' sound like? Tuh, tuh tuh!"
- 6 With your child, write notes to your loved ones. This will not only brighten up their day, but it will also help your little one become more familiar with letters!
- 7 While reading a story, put your finger under the word you are reading. This helps build reading comprehension.
- 8 Use your senses to explore the environment around you! What do you see? Hear? Smell?
- 9 When you read together, let your baby help turn the pages—it can help build their interest in books.
- 10 Talk about your job or workers you see out and about! What is the construction worker building? How does a firefighter help people?
- 11 Have fun pretending to move and sound like different animals. "Ribbit and hop like a frog" or "chirp and flap your wings like a bird!"
- 12 Practice saying and spelling your child's name with them! Write it out and trace the letters together, or spell out their name in a song!
- 13 Give your baby age-appropriate art materials like chunky crayons and paper to create art together.
- 14 During bedtime, talk with your baby about your favorite parts of the day.
- 15 Use mealtime as an opportunity to support your child's early math skills. Ask, "How many crackers are on your plate?" or "Which apple is bigger? Biggest?"
- 16 Talk with your baby about his day! Ask them what he did, how he felt, and what he wants to do tomorrow!
- 17 Talk about shapes as you eat healthy and yummy snacks! Compare the shape of a square cracker or a round tomato!
- 18 Have fun finding things of different sizes and using words to describe them. Ask, "Can we find something big? Humongous? Small? Tiny? Short? Tall?"
- 19 Use colors to express feelings! Encourage your child to scribble or draw a picture using colors to show how he is feeling. Talk together about the colors and feelings.
- 20 Grow your baby's vocabulary by using big words like "humongous" or "gigantic" instead of "big."
- 21 Laughing is an important part of learning! Play fun games like "peek-a-boo" or sing funny nursery rhymes.
- 22 As you do laundry, play a game of finding the matching pairs of socks with your baby.
- 23 Use stories to spark imagination. During story time, ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?" Or ask her to make up and tell you a story of her own!
- 24 At the grocery store, give your baby an apple to hold in each hand. Ask, "Which is heavier? Which is lighter?"
- 25 Celebrate the things that make your child unique! Create a song with your little one about what makes her special and sing it together.
- 26 Go on a number hunt! Take turns pointing to and naming the numbers you see on signs, in books, or at the store!
- 27 Play "I-Spy" by taking turns naming and describing the things you each see. Say, "I spy with my little eye...a big red truck. You?"
- 28 Have fun playing outdoors with your baby and talking about what you see together!
- 29 Talk about clothing and the weather. "What do we wear when it is cold? Warm?"
- 30 Your baby loves to hear your voice. Talk, read, and sing together every day.

