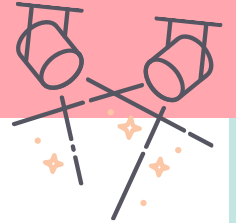


FEBRUARY 2021 • VOL. 2

EARLY LITERACY SPOTLIGHT



The 5 Practices

1) Sing

2) Talk

3) Read

4) Write

5) Play

Talk About It, Talk About It...

**TALKING BUILDS
BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE
AND VOCABULARY!**

Talking with children helps them learn oral language, one of the most critical early literacy skills.

Children learn about language by listening to parents talk and joining in the conversation.

Talking in a way that encourages your child to talk will eventually help them to understand what they read later on.





Conversation Starters

- Ask your child open-ended questions.
- Tell and retell stories together; try with puppets or props.
- Talk about more than just the here and now (imagine, what would you do, past & future).
- Talk about what you're doing during daily routines.
- Name everything your child sees, including signs, logos, and labels!

Here's a great website full of language-building activities:

- <https://talkingisteaching.org/resources>

Five Little Speckled Frogs

(Match actions to words)

**Five little speckled frogs
Sitting on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs.
Yum, yum!**

**One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool.
Now there are four little speckled frogs.
Burr-ump!**

Repeat, counting down until there are no little speckled frogs.

Books that Invite Participation

THE FOLLOWING ARE ALL AVAILABLE AT RADNOR LIBRARY:

- **Can You Growl Like a Bear?** by John Butler
- **Who Hops?** by Katie Davis
- **Shout! Shout it Out!** by Denise Fleming
- **Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?** by Susan Shea
- **Where's Spot?** by Eric Hill
- **Jump, Frog, Jump!** by Robert Kalan
- Wordless books by David Wiesner, Molly Idle, Barbara Lehman, and Peggy Rathmann

**USE "BABY TALK"
WITH INFANTS FOR
THE FIRST 9
MONTHS... THEY
WILL LISTEN TO YOU
LONGER AND HEAR
SMALLER SOUNDS
MORE EASILY!**

FEBRUARY 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY



7 **WRITING**

Let your child scribble and draw, encourage them to "sign" their name on their drawing.

MONDAY

1 **WRITING**

Use a red crayon to keep a list of all the red things you see today. Red car. Red truck. Red door. Write it down with the red crayon!

TUESDAY

2 **PLAYING**

Play the yes-no game.
"Is the sky blue?" "Is it morning?"
"Is our dog's name Spot?"

WEDNESDAY

3 **TALKING**

Ask your child questions that have more than a yes or no answer. What is something fun we did today? What is something fun we can do tomorrow?

THURSDAY

4 **SINGING**

Clap along to a favorite song. Emphasize the slow parts and the fast parts.

FRIDAY

5 **COUNTING**

Look at a calendar together. Count the number of days until Valentine's Day. Draw a heart around February 14.

SATURDAY

6 **READING**

Pick a book to read together. Stop reading before the end and ask your child, "What do you think will happen?"

7 **WRITING**

Let your child scribble and draw, encourage them to "sign" their name on their drawing.

8 **PLAYING**

Go on a scavenger hunt. Look for things that start with the "f" sound, like fruit, feet, face, fork.

9 **TALKING**

After reading together, talk about interesting words in the book.

10 **SINGING**

Recite "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" (*Words are on the back* ➔)

11 **COUNTING**

Count your steps today. From the bedroom to the kitchen. From the front door to the corner. All the way back home.

12 **READING**

Set up a reading routine: read after naps and before bedtime.

13 **WRITING**

Letters are everywhere. Today look for the letter that your child's first name begins with and show them when you find it. Ask your child to also look.

14 **PLAYING**

Happy Valentine's Day! Sing "The More We Get Together." (*Words are on the back* ➔)

15 **TALKING**

Talk about your family's plans for the day. What is your child excited to do or see?

16 **SINGING**

Sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" together. (*Words are on the back* ➔)

17 **COUNTING**

Recite the rhyme "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe." (*Words are on the back* ➔)

18 **READING**

Look at the covers of books before reading them. Talk about what the books might be about.

19 **WRITING**

Trace shapes and letters in a shallow pan of flour, salt, or baking soda.

20 **PLAYING**

Play store. Set up a little store with items in your house and take turns being the shopper and the check-out clerk.

21 **TALKING**

Introduce a new word to describe how you feel. Say "I feel joyful" rather than "I'm happy."

22 **SINGING**

Sing a favorite song together. Change the words to make it silly or to incorporate your child's name.

23 **COUNTING**

Pick a number of the day. Call it out wherever you see it! 1, 2, 3.

24 **READING**

Point out signs everywhere today. Explain what they say and how they help.

25 **WRITING**

Make a chart of family preferences. List family member names and their favorite colors, favorite flavor ice cream, favorite fruit, etc.

26 **PLAYING**

Use masking tape to make lines or shapes on the floor. Walk along the tape like a pretend balance beam.

27 **TALKING**

Talk about concepts like "on" and "off" when you put on and take off hats and jackets.

28 **SINGING**

Make music with things you have in the house—pots, pans, spoons, and sing and dance around to the music you make.



How we read to children is as important as how often we read to them.

No matter what your child's age, reading together with your child—or shared reading—is the single most important activity that you can do to help your child get ready to read. Engage your child in back and forth conversation about the books you read. Children learn more words when they have the opportunity to respond to questions. If English is not your first language, speak to your child in the language you know best. This allows you to explain things to your child more fluently.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are

THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER

The itsy bitsy spider went up the
water spout.
(Move fingers up toward sky)
Down came the rain and washed the
spider out.
(Bring fingers down and back)
Out came the sun and dried up all
the rain
(Move arms up over head)
And the itsy bitsy spider climbed up
the spout again.
(Move fingers up toward sky)

REPEAT WITH "GREAT BIG SPIDER" USING A
GRUFF, DEEP VOICE.

THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER

The more we get together
Together, together
The more we get together
The happier we'll be
'Cause your friends are my friends
And my friends are your friends
The more we get together
The happier we'll be

ONE, TWO, BUCKLE MY SHOE

One, two; buckle my shoe.
Three, four; shut the door.
Five, six; pick up sticks.
Seven, eight; don't be late
Nine, ten; do it over again!



Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

Whose Toes Are Those?

by Jabari Asim

Moo, Baa, La La

La! by Sandra Boynton

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Mixed—A Colorful Story

by Arree Chung

Pinky Got Out!

By Michael Portis





TALK, READ AND SING TOGETHER EVERY DAY!

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

When you talk, read and sing with your child – even before they can use words – you’re helping them learn. And making them happier too! Research shows that talking, reading and singing with your child every day from birth helps build their brains as well as important language, math, reading and social skills for use in school and beyond. Talk, read and sing with your child in the language you are most comfortable using.

You probably naturally talk to your baby about the events of the day. Keep doing it, and do it more! The more words and conversations you share together, the better prepared they will be to learn. You are your baby’s first teacher!

For children with disabilities or delays, communicate with your service providers and keep each other informed about the strategies you are using to enhance their language environment.

TIPS FOR INFANTS

TALK

- Your touch and voice help your baby learn. Listen to the fun sounds your baby makes and repeat them. When they coo, coo back. Hold their hand gently and when they smile, smile back. Your loving touch combined with this back-and-forth “baby language” are the first steps in talking.
- Everywhere you go, talk about what you see and what your baby is looking at: “Wow, I see the four dogs, too!” “I love that red truck you’re playing with. It goes beep beep!”
- Play “Peek-a-boo” while getting your baby dressed. Ask, “Where’s (baby’s name)?” when you pull a shirt over your baby’s head. Then say, “There you are!”
- As you feed your baby, use words to describe what foods taste, feel, and look like. “This yogurt is smooth.” “That yellow banana is sweet!”
- Looking into your baby’s eyes, holding your baby’s hand, and talking to your baby in a high voice are all ways that you can help your child grow up to be a confident, loving adult.

READ

- Read a book or tell a story to your baby every day – in whatever language you feel most comfortable – beginning at birth.
- Cuddle with your baby as you share a book. It doesn’t matter how young your child is; even newborn babies are learning when their parents read with them.
- Point to the book’s pictures: “Look, the train goes choo-choo!” Using words to describe what you see builds language.

SING

- Hold your baby close during bedtime and sing a favorite song again and again. Singing the same song can help your baby feel calm and safe.
- Sing silly songs about your day to help get your baby’s attention during diaper changing.
- Your baby loves to hear your voice even if you think you can’t sing! The sound of your voice is comforting to your baby.



TIPS FOR TODDLERS

TALK

- Everywhere you go, talk about what you see. A stop sign, a traffic light, or a tree might seem boring to you, but it's a whole new world to your child, so teach them about it!
- Young children learn best during playful, everyday activities. Play "I-Spy" in the grocery store together. Choose a color and encourage your child to point out objects that match the color.
- Try some early math activities: point out shapes on your child's plate or around the kitchen. Ask your child, "How many sides does a square have?" "How about a triangle?"
- Play games during bath time to help your child learn new words. Take turns dropping toys in the water. Say, "Watch it sink!" or "It floats!"

READ

- You can inspire a love of books and words in your young child by reading or telling a story together every day.
- Point to the pictures, letters, and numbers in books. Ask open-ended questions as you share the book together. "What do you see? How does he feel? What would you do if you were her? What's your favorite page?"
- Let your child turn the book's pages. It's OK if they skip pages, or like a few pages better than others. You just want your child to get used to touching books.

SING

- Sing during everyday activities like driving in the car, or during bath time. It can be repetitive and simple, like "Wash your toes, wash your nose!"
- Singing songs that have basic counting or rhyming patterns also helps children learn basic math skills. "One, two, buckle my shoe. Three, four, open the door."
- Your toddler loves to get positive attention from you. Singing is a great way for you and your toddler to share an activity together.



You can find more tips like these—as well as videos, information, and more—on Too Small to Fail's website, www.talkingisteaching.org.

Every child develops at his or her own pace, but if you are ever worried about your child's development, don't wait! Acting early can make a big difference. Remember, you know your child best. Talk with your child's doctor if you have concerns. Get tips to help you prepare at cdc.gov/Concerned.

For more information on developmental and behavioral screening, visit [Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive!](#)

