

#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 As you fold your laundry, ask your child to find the matching pairs of socks. "Do you see another sock with red and gray stripes?"

2 Go on a walk with your child and point out the pattern in the traffic lights. "The light changes from green, to yellow, to red! Right now, the light is red. What color comes next?"

3 Go on a pattern hunt around your home. "I see squares on the kitchen floor! What patterns can you find?"

4 While getting ready for mealtime, talk about the patterns of the utensils. "The fork and spoon go on top of the napkin!"

5 Children rely on routine. At night, talk about bedtime patterns. "First, we brush our teeth, then we read a story, and finally I give you a good night kiss."

6 Help your child create patterns using toys in her room. Lay out a crayon, a block, and then a crayon. Ask, "What comes next? The crayon or the block?"

7 Sing songs that have repetitive patterns, like "Los Cinco Hermanitos" or "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Clap along to the rhythm!

8 Talk with your baby about his day! Ask them what he did, how he felt, and what he wants to do tomorrow!

9 Go on a number hunt! Take turns pointing to and naming the numbers you see on signs, in books, or at the store!

10 Go on a "shape hunt" with your little one. Search for different shapes in your home and around your neighborhood.

11 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?"

12 Your baby loves to hear your voice. Talk, read, and sing together every day.

13 Grow your baby's vocabulary by using big words like "humongous" or "gigantic" instead of "big."

14 Ask questions about your child's art. You can say, "I noticed you used the color blue. Why?"

15 Use stories to spark creativity and 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!

16 During bedtime, talk with your baby about your favorite parts of the day.

17 Talk with your child about the weather each day! What do they see in the sky when it is sunny, cloudy, or rainy?

18 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. What do you spy?"

19 Talk about your job or workers you see out and about! What is the construction worker building? How does a firefighter help people?

20 When you go on a walk with your baby, count the trees, leaves, cars, or animals that you see.

21 At the grocery store, give your baby an apple to hold in each hand. Ask, "Which is heavier? Which is lighter?"

22 Talk about water on a rainy or snowy day! What does water feel like? Taste like? Sound like?

23 Use your senses to explore the environment around you! What do you see? Hear? Smell?

24 Celebrate the things that make your child unique! Create a song with your little one about what makes her special and sing it together.

25 Talk about colors and clothing. Say, "I noticed you're wearing a red shirt and blue pants. What colors am I wearing?"

26 Talk with your child in your native language. Speaking together in two or more languages builds your baby's brain.

27 Cuddle and share a story about your childhood. It's a great way to bond with your baby.

28 As you do laundry, play a game of finding the matching pairs of socks with your baby.

29 Turn on your baby's favorite songs and move your bodies as you dance together!

30 Laughing is an important part of learning! Play fun games like "peek-a-boo" or sing funny nursery rhymes.

