

#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 Help build your child's social-emotional skills by using puppets to act out and talk about different emotions. This will help your little one recognize different feelings!

2 Snack time is math time! While cooling off with a snack, ask your child to compare the sizes of the snacks. "Which is bigger: the watermelon slice or the orange slice?"

3 As you get dressed, talk about the weather with your little one. "It's going to be warm today. What do we wear when it's hot?"

4 Make mini popsicles with your little one! Together, pour juice into an ice cube tray and let freeze for three hours. Then, enjoy the cool snack! "What color is your popsicle? Mine is orange!"

5 Enjoy the summer weather by taking a walk outside with your little one! Talk about what you hear and see. "I hear a car honking. What do you hear?"

6 On summer evenings, cuddle up with your baby and read your favorite book together!

7 Help build your child's imagination by looking for shapes in the clouds! "I see a dog running after a ball! What do you see?"

8 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?"

9 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.

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

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

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

13 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?"

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

15 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!

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

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

18 Give your baby age-appropriate art materials like chunky crayons and paper to create art together.

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

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

21 Use words to describe time with your child as you do different activities. Was the walk long or short? Do you like long walks or quick walks?

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

23 Use stories to spark creativity and imagination. During story time, ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?"

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

25 Have fun finding things of different sizes and using words to describe them. Ask, "Can we find something big? Humongous? Small? Tiny? Short? Tall?"

26 Have fun playing outdoors with your baby and talking about what you see together!

27 Spending time drawing and coloring with your child can develop her creative, motor, and language skills! Ask her to draw their favorite food or animal!

28 When you read together, let your baby help turn the pages—it can help build their interest in books.

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

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

