

#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 rainy day, sing songs about the rain like "Itsy Bitsy Spider"!

2 Fill the sink or tub with different kinds of containers or utensils like small cups, bowls, and wooden spoons. Allow your child to play and have fun pouring and exploring water.

3 Let's talk about bath time! Use words to describe all the things you can do in the bath—splash, pour, sprinkle, and scrub! Ask, "What else can you do?"

4 Let's talk about the ocean! Say, "Fish live in the ocean. What other animals live in the ocean?"

5 During bath time, have fun making up simple songs with your baby. For example, "Scrub a dub-dub! Wash your toes, wash your nose!"

6 When it rains, allow your child to play and jump in the puddles. Ask, "What happens when you jump in a tiny puddle? A humongous puddle?"

7 Your baby is a little scientist! Give your child toys like a small ball or a building block and do an experiment to test which objects sink and which float in water.

8 Self-care is important! You can better care for your children when you take the time to take care of yourself.

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

10 As you're driving or riding the bus, talk about the colors of traffic lights and what they mean—red means stop, green means go.

11 During bedtime, hold your baby close and sing a lullaby. What's your favorite song to sing together?

12 Take turns showing each other different faces and use words to describe them: "We're smiling because we're happy!"

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

14 Take a walk in your local park and talk about the colors, shapes, and sizes you see around you.

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

16 During bath time, use words like "sink" or "float" to help your child experiment and learn new words.

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

18 Everywhere you go, use words to talk about what you see and what your baby is looking at or pointing to.

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

20 Use words to describe how food tastes or smells. Ask, "What does this apple feel like? Taste like? Smell like?"

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

22 Sing "Old MacDonald" with your child, and change the animals on the farm to other animals or objects you see in your home!

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

24 Books can help children develop empathy! When reading together ask questions like: "How do you think the character feels?"

25 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?"

26 Sing songs like "Five Little Monkeys" that have simple counting patterns to help your child learn early math skills.

27 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!"

28 Your baby loves to hear to hear the sound of your voice! Talk about what you're doing and name objects around you.

29 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.

30 As you do laundry, describe the clothes you're folding: "This shirt is humongous! What else can we find that's humongous?"

