

#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
Talk about nature! Describe the colors of the flowers, trees, and leaves all around you.

2
Turn wash time into talk time! Sort the clothes by color and say, "We have a white pile, a blue pile, and a red pile. Where do your blue jeans go?"

3
Go beyond simple color words like "blue" or "red" to describe things. Build your child's vocabulary by saying "turquoise water" or the "maroon sweater."

4
Play "I-Spy Colors!" You can say, "I spy with my little eye...a large, metal object that is blue and has black rubber wheels. It's a car! What do you spy?"

5
Let's talk about art! Ask your child questions about his picture. You can say, "Tell me about your picture. What colors did you use? Why?"

6
Go on a walk with your child and describe the colors you see. Say, "That dog is white with black spots. The school bus is bright yellow and has red lights. What colors do you see?"

7
Let your child choose a color, then together make a list of words that rhyme with that color, like "green" and "bean." Use those words to make a fun song you can sing together!

8
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!

9
Laughing is an important part of learning! Play fun games like "peek-a-boo" or sing funny nursery rhymes.

10
When you read together, let your baby help turn the pages—it can help build their interest in books.

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

12
When you go on a walk with your baby, count the trees, leaves, cars, or animals that you see.

13
Use colors to express feelings! Encourage your child to scribble or draw a picture using colors to show how he is feeling.

14
At the grocery store, give your baby an apple to hold in each hand. Ask, "Which is heavier? Which is lighter?"

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
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"!

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

20
Talk with your child in your native language. Speaking together in two or more language builds your baby's brain.

21
Go on a number hunt! Take turns pointing to and naming the numbers you see on signs, in books, or at the store!

22
Talk with your child about the weather each day! What do they see in the sky when it is sunny, cloudy, or rainy?

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

24
Talk about your job or workers you see out and about! What is the construction worker building? How does a firefighter help people?

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

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

29
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?

30
Have fun finding things of different sizes and using words to describe them. Ask, "Can we find something Tiny? humongous?"

