

#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 your favorite places in your community! "My favorite place is the park, because I love the trees and grass. What's your favorite place?"

2 Go on a walk around your neighborhood and point out the familiar buildings you see. "That's the bodega, where we get our groceries. What else do you see?"

3 Turn your neighborhood into a work of art! Tape sheets of paper together and draw your community. Ask, "Tell me about this building you drew. What do people do there?"

4 Read a picture book with your child and talk about the neighborhood in the story. Ask, "Is this city bigger or smaller than our city?"

5 Help your child write and send homemade cards to people in your community, like your child's teacher, friend, or neighbor! Talk and write about why you appreciate them.

6 Let's use our imaginations! Pretend to be the neighborhood firefighter, chef, or dentist. "I'm a chef! My job is to make delicious food."

7 Throughout the day, talk about the sounds you hear in your neighborhood. "I hear a car whizzing by. I hear the neighbors talking and laughing. What do you hear?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 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!"

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

17 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.

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

19 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?

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

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

22 Talk about shapes as you eat healthy and yummy snacks! Compare the shape of a square cracker or a round tomato!

23 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!

24 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!

25 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?"

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

27 Use stories to spark creativity and imagination. During story time, ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?" Or ask her to tell you a story of her own!

28 Talk about clothing and the weather. "What do we wear when it is cold? Warm?"

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

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

