

# #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 Sing a lullaby as you tuck your baby into bed. Your little one loves to hear your voice, and a song can help lull her to sleep.

2 Using plastic containers and wooden spoons, start your own family band with your child as the lead drummer!

3 Talk about your favorite songs with your little one. "I like Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. What's your favorite song to sing?"

4 Introduce your baby to a family or cultural song. When children know about their family's history, it can build a sense of belonging.

5 Make up sounds like "bababa" and "shalala" and sing them in any melody. Take turns copying each other's sounds!

6 Turn everyday activities, like brushing teeth or cleaning up, into songs. "Clean up, clean up, everywhere!"

7 Turn on a fun music playlist and clap, dance, and sing along! This fun bonding activity supports your baby's physical development.

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

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 Use mealtime as an opportunity to support your child's early math skills. Ask, "Which apple is bigger? Biggest?"

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

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

13 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!

14 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!

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

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

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

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. You?"

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

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

21 Establish a consistent family routine, like family game night or eating meals together as often as possible.

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

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

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

25 Use stories to spark creativity and imagination. During story time, ask your child to make up and tell you a story of her own!

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

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

28 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?

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

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

