

#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 During cold winter days, make a cozy pillow fort! Use pillows and blankets to build a fort with your child, then cuddle up together and share stories.

2 Talk about the weather with your child. "Do you think it's cold outside? Warm?" Then, make guesses on what the weather will be tomorrow.

3 With your little one, enjoy a warm winter snack, like hot cocoa. Ask, "How does it taste? Is it sweet? Bitter?"

4 Talk about what you like most about the winter season. "I like it when the weather gets colder! What do you like about winter?"

5 If it snows in your neighborhood, turn it into an opportunity to play and learn! With your child, pack the snow into different shapes. "What shape did you create with the snow?"

6 On cold evenings or mornings, draw letters, shapes, and doodles on the frost-covered windows. Ask your little one, "Tell me about your drawing!"

7 While helping your child get dressed, talk about weather and clothing. "What do we wear outside when it's cold?"

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

9 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!

10 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?"

11 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?

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

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

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

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

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

17 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 biggest?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 Establish a consistent family routine, like family game night or eating meals together as often as possible. This can boost your baby's social-emotional development!

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

26 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"!

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

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

29 Use stories to spark imagination. 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!

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

