

How to foster speech and language development at home?



Speech - Language development begins from infancy. A simple act of a baby smiling at his/her parents is regarded as an attempt of communication. The parent - child activities and joint play fosters several important language developmental precursors such as joint attention, eye contact and imitation.

Tips on how to foster language development at home:

1. Talk to your child during everyday routine activities such as bathing, meal times, dressing etc. Identify colors for your baby. Count things with your baby. Identify animal sounds for your baby.
2. Talk to them about your day, whether it was tiring, fun, exciting. Ask them about theirs, what did they learn new at school?
3. Often, a parent's language serves as a model for the child. Hence, encourage age appropriate conversations. Incorporate social graces such as, "please", "thank you", and "may I?" to foster their pragmatic skills.
4. Use verbal labeling with your baby. Verbal labeling means pointing out and naming objects for your child. You can use books and you can do this as you walk around with your child. All this is an essential component of language learning for your child and can be an effective way to teach new words.