



Baby Talk: Resources to Support the People Who Work with Infants and Toddlers

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The Benefits of Cultivating Curiosity in Children

While curiosity is central to scientific inquiry, there very few studies on that topic. Fortunately, scientists are actively unraveling this concept and, in the process, making a convincing case that we can and should teach young minds to embrace their inquisitive nature. Read more at <https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/51538/the-benefits-of-cultivating-curiosity-in-kids>

What Information Are First Time Parents and Family Members Most Eager For?

Child Trends researchers found that first-time parents and family members of young children have many questions about their child's social and emotional development, and often turn to the Internet, other family members, and pediatricians for parenting advice. Parents and family members of young children who are knowledgeable about child development are more likely to engage in positive parenting behaviors, which are linked to better child well-being. Read more or watch a video about this topic at <https://www.childtrends.org/videos/first-time-parenting-knowledge>

How Do Children Learn Through Play?

This online article provides an overview of how play develops in young children and ways in which play can support learning across developmental domains. Key points are illustrated by video clips that are embedded in the article. Take a look at page 16 of the *imagine2018* (<http://www.imagine.musictherapy.biz/current/>). NOTE: While the emphasis of the articles in this journal is on music, the content is relevant to both families and professionals.

Maternal Sensitivity Can Lead to a Larger Vocabulary for Young Children

In a 2017 study, researchers reviewed videotaped interactions between mothers and their infants to determine what factors were linked to early vocabulary development. Among a sample of 146 mothers and infants enrolled in Early Head Start, researchers found that mothers' sensitivity was associated with larger vocabularies at 14, 24, and 36 months of age. Read more or watch a video about this topic at <https://www.childtrends.org/videos/early-word-development>

Research Underscores the Importance of Language Development in Low-Income, High-Risk Children

A child's early years of language development are critical for the fundamentals of school readiness, such as literacy skills and social and emotional growth. While much research has focused how language develops through parent-child interactions, this study examined how language use and development in 2- and 3-year-old children was influenced by what they heard from their teachers and their peers. The study revealed the importance of the conversational turns with teachers, underscoring that back-and-forth conversation with the child is very beneficial, particularly for children with more challenging life circumstances. Read an overview of the study and findings at <http://www.as.miami.edu/news/news-archive/a-year-in-words.html> or the published research at <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0199893>

Baby Talk is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources. Resources **highlighted in yellow** are available in English and Spanish. To join the listserv, send an email **with no message** to subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu

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Past issues of Baby Talk are archived at <https://buildthefoundation.org/baby-talk/> For more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu