

RESEARCH FAST FACTS

Mom & Baby

- Infants are more engaged by their mother's voice than unfamiliar voices
- The mother's voice plays a role in the social and emotional processes learned by infants
- Studies show that infants can identify their mom's voice over 97% of the time

Literacy

- Parent literacy directly correlates to child language acquisition
- Children benefit from being read to at an early age
- Books don't need to have words, you can use the pictures to make up a story!



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Why is it important?

Caregivers are children's most important communication models. Caregiver interaction supports the language development of young children and contributes greatly to the acquisition process.



TIPS & TRICKS

Keep Talking. Engage your child with questions, and use descriptive words (words of size, color, texture, shape) and language whenever possible. Talk about daily activities and play. Use comparison words like 'hard' and 'soft' in your descriptions. Ex: The blanket is soft and the rock is hard.

Encourage. Listen and respond to your child's words, cooing, and babbling to promote back-and-forth communication.

Read everyday. Reading to your child regularly promotes language acquisition. This can help expand a child's vocabulary and exposure to speech sounds.

Ask open-ended WH-questions. (where, what, why) This keeps the child involved and supports the development of conversational skills.

Example: "Why is the ground wet?"

Play games. Encourage and engage in pretend play with your child. Play games that involve following directions.



HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD GROW THEIR LANGUAGE?



References:
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INFANT-DIRECTED SPEECH



What is it?

Infant-directed speech (IDS) is a style of a speech that is typically used by adults and older children, when interacting with an infant. It is designed to help babies develop social skills, form stronger emotional connections, and acquire language.

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Research shows babies prefer IDS!

Infant-directed speech is more than just "baby talk", it is also a helpful tool to...

- Promote brain activation and engagement
- Perceive and differentiate sounds in a way that will support learning
- Learn how to pick up on emotional cues
- Encourage bonding between the child and caregiver
- Acquire language!

CHARACTERISTICS



Characteristics of IDS

When speaking to infants, adults tend to:

- Speak with a slower speech rate
- Raise their pitch
- Speak in shorter sentences
- Elongate vowels
- Incorporate longer pauses
- Repeat questions and words



Characteristics of CDS

When speaking to children, adults:

- Use a higher pitch and slower rate of speech
- Reference objects and toys nearby
- Use gestures regularly
- Exaggerate their facial expressions
- Incorporate deictic terms like "here!" and "look!"
- Use names and terms of endearment



CHILD-DIRECTED SPEECH



Child-directed speech (CDS) is speech from a caregiver that emphasizes language learning in children. CDS gets a child's attention and maintains it throughout the interaction in order to best engage the child and allow them to learn the goals of effective communication. When children are attentive, they are more likely to learn.



There are many benefits to using CDS. For instance, children with caregivers who respond verbally to them, engage in socialization with turn-taking, and provide informative input have larger vocabularies later on.



More Ways to Help

In CDS, **joint attention**, which is when a child and caregiver attend to the same thing, plays a critical role in development. You can do more by...

- Following the child's lead by monitoring what the child is looking at and attending to the same thing
- Recasting, or repeating, children's utterances in a way that provides a more grammatical utterance
- Expanding upon a child's utterance by providing further facts about the concept or by making comparisons

