



Speech Stimulation and Language Strategies:

Read because:

- It builds vocabulary, even if your child is not talking much yet.
- Creates an opportunity for joint attention
- Helps to improve focus and attention skills
- Is the best indicator of future language/vocabulary -
- *...which is best indicator of school success.*
- You don't have to read the whole story! Just 'look and label'

Respond:

- To all of your child's communication attempts
- By imitating or modeling what your child is saying and doing
- Provide vocabulary for the activity your child is involved in. (mapping)

Listen:

- For partial words and beginning sounds that your child may be attempting
- To auditory only formats **together**, like music or books on audio to build auditory pathways
- Be at your child's eye level to communicate (face-to-face)

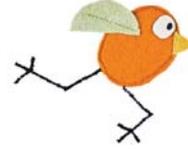
Expand:

- On things your child is saying by adding a word- c='dog' p='big dog'
- By using a new word.
- By interpreting your child's nonverbal actions and emerging speech
- By involving yourself in your child's play

Repeat, Repeat, Repeat....



Your Baby's Brain...



From Birth:

- ✚ Discriminates sounds
- ✚ Prefers familiar voices... knows your voice!
- ✚ Prefers speech sounds over non-speech sounds
- ✚ Listens to speech even when resting
- ✚ Listens for patterns in speech

In the First Year:

- ✚ Babies take cues from your facial expressions and gestures
- ✚ Repetition of language is important for increasing language skills. This is how you strengthen the thread that connects information in your baby's brain.
- ✚ Babies respond to changes in voice pitch and patterns in words and sounds such as rhyming, rhythm games and songs. It helps them remember.

You can:

- ✚ Share lots of words with your baby every day through reading, talking, and singing, rhyming and playing.
- ✚ Make deposits in your baby's language memory bank- the more you put in the more you get out later. A large vocabulary is one of the best indicators of later academic success!

You are your babies travel guide on this learning adventure!

A baby's brain is ready and looking for clues that will unlock the mysteries of language

-from the research of P. Kuhl and J.Werker

