

Providing sensory experiences for babies and toddlers expands their understanding of the world around them.



Babbling back and forth with an infant is teaching them conversation skills early in life.

# Any Age:

- Talk to children: during daily activities, about tasks, and the environment. Ask and answer questions!
- Model good speech using clear and correct sounds
- Take turns throughout routines, labeling "it's your turn" or "it's my turn"



Shared story reading is great for all areas of development including vision, hearing, communication, and language.



# Providing opportunities for learning, exploration, and positive interactions nurture growth in children.



### Birth-1 year:

- Encourage communication, example: when child coos or says something, repeat and respond to what they are saying! Introduce new vocabulary when going new places or trying new things
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes! Vary the pitch and volume of the voice. Leave the ending off of frequently repeated lines of the song to encourage the child to 'fill in the blank'
- Introduce picture books, point and talk about various colors/objects seen

#### **2-3** years:

- Read to the child everyday! Model reading books, labels, signs on the road, and more
- Describe objects that have different sizes, textures, and colors. Use comparison words such as big, little, hard, and soft.
- Play games that encourage the child to follow directions, such as Simon Says
- Encourage pretend play: pretending to talk on the phone to each other
- Ask why questions, and be prepared to answer them.
   An example of this would be, "Why do we eat breakfast?"



## **3-4** *years:*

- · Play matching games, such as: Guess Who? or Go Fish
- Play with building blocks or construction sets
- Continue to read together regularly, encourage the child to read stories to others





## At All Ages:

- Work on joint attention, as this is a critical skill for language development
  - Joint attention is when two people intentionally focus on the same object or activity, often signaled through eye gaze, pointing, or verbal cues

Some of the best ways to work on communication development is through playing a child's favorite game.

An easy way to work on communication skills is by having them request more of their favorite game..





Illinois Early Hearing
Detection & Intervention
Program







p.3