

# How You Can Bridge the Word Gap

Talking with your children is important! Trends in amount of talk, vocabulary growth, and style of interaction are established at a young age. Try these fun activities from the **ASQ-3 Learning Activities™** with the children in your program or share them with parents.

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**0-2  
months**

## Simple Stories

At quiet times and before sleep, talk to your baby in a soft, gentle voice. Tell her simple stories or talk about the day.

**2-4  
months**

## Picture Books

With your baby cuddled on your lap, hold a book with simple, clear colorful pictures so that both of you can see. Talk softly about what you see as you point to the pictures.

**4-8  
months**

## Little Explorer

Now that baby is learning to crawl, she'll want to explore the whole house: "What's under the table? What's behind the chair?" What good exercise for both of you!

**8-12  
months**

## Reading Fun

Read to your baby every day. Cuddle up, get close, and make this a special time together. Point to pictures in books and ask her to find something. "Where's the kitty? Where are baby's socks?"

**12-16  
months**

## Big Talk

While you do housework or get a meal together, talk to your baby about what you're doing. Encourage your little one to use two words together to make baby sentences, such as "help me."

**16-20  
months**

## Chatter Stretchers

Your toddler may use single words for requests, such as "juice" when he wants a drink. Help him stretch his sentence by saying it for him: "Would you like some juice? Say, 'I want juice, please.'"

**20-24  
months**

## Sing Together

Your child will love learning songs such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Teach your child simple songs you remember from childhood. Later, ask your child to sing for someone else in the family.

**24-30  
months**

## When You Were Little

Tell your children stories about when he was little: "When you were first born.." or "When you were a little baby.." Your child will love to hear these stories again and again.

**30-36  
months**

## What's Going On?

Ask your child to tell you what is happening in a picture in a book or magazine. "What is the baby doing? What is the dog doing?" Then, listen carefully to your child's interesting story.

**36-42  
months**

## Who's the Person?

Pretend you suddenly forgot who your child is. Say, "What's your name, little girl? Is it Samantha? Is it Rosita? Do you have another name?" When she tells you her name, you can be very happily surprised!

**42-48  
months**

## My Own Stories

Encourage your child to begin to make up stories of her own. Write them on a piece of paper as she tells them to you. She might like to draw or paint a picture to go along with the story.

## #TalkReadSing



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