

Talk to your baby (in any language)!

It's never too early to talk to your baby.

- Babies begin learning language as soon as they are born (and probably before).
- By the time they begin to speak, children already know a lot about the language(s) they've heard.

Children learn language from the people who speak to them.

- At birth, the brain is ready to learn any language(s) the baby hears.
- Babies learn the language(s) they hear spoken to them by other people. The baby's brain builds strong connections for the languages the baby hears.

Earlier is better because earlier is easier.

- 6 months: The baby's brain begins to "prefer" the language(s) the baby hears most often.
- 4 years: The basic *capability* for language is often set.
- 10 years: Most of the brain's connections for language are formed. After age 10, learning a new language is usually harder.

A child needs interaction with a person to attach meaning to words.

- Talking is teaching.
- Television is not. Babies don't learn language from screens/electronic devices.
- Read, talk, sing TO your baby.



Children are ready to learn language during the early years. They are good at it!

- There is no evidence that children get confused if they learn two languages during the infant-toddler years.
- The greater children's exposure to each language, the larger their vocabulary in each language.

The more babies are spoken to...

- ...the faster they learn to identify sounds in their home language(s).
- ... the easier it will be later to master more complex language skills—such as reading.