

Language & Learning

Building Conversations

Talk About What Interests Your Baby

How does your baby let you know what is interesting? Usually, babies look at, touch, grasp, listen to and chew on objects they like. They try to reach interesting objects, or light beams, or other babies. They laugh at unexpected actions and faces. They pay attention to what is interesting and new.

We know all about those things, but for babies, they are new and exciting. When you talk or sign about your baby's experiences while they are happening, then your baby will pay attention to you, too

Do's	Don'ts
Provide information about the subject. "Airplane. Up-up-up."	Provide too much information. "That's an airplane. It can fly high in the sky and up in the clouds."
Leave a space for another turn. "Big airplane." Then wait expectantly for your baby to take a turn.	Decide what the baby's turn will be. "Can you say, 'up';? Let's say 'up'."
Support the child's topic. (baby reaches for a rattle) "Want your rattle?" (baby giggles in response to the game) - This signals mom or dad to play more.	Change the subject.(baby reaches for rattle) "Look... Here's a truck."
Encourage turns. (baby laughs at being jumped) "Jump again?"	Take too many turns. "You like to jump. Want to jump again? Say jump. Say it again. Want to jump?"