



## Building Language Skills in Infants



Communication **BEGINS** with interaction; language follows but interaction and connection **MUST** be present first.

Show interest and let your child know that communicating with them is important and rewarding for you!

How do we build a strong foundation for language?

- Let your child lead by OWL-ing
  - Observe (pay attention to what they are showing interest in)
  - Wait (give them a turn to interact by pausing expectantly after you say or do something)
  - Listen (what is your baby's "message" about?)
- Model good interaction skills
  - Turn-taking - use cues like waiting or pausing familiar routines
  - Face-to-face routines - songs, nursery rhymes, finger plays
- Target early cognitive skills
  - Cause and effect toys (e.g. things with buttons/handles/knobs/pulleys that do something when touched - like making a noise or lighting up)
  - Hide and seek games, peek-a-boo
  - Simple problem solving - placing objects just out of arms reach, setting up simple barriers, using shape sorters and stacking rings

Keeping Your Baby Engaged:

- Make fun sounds ("wow", "uh oh", "oopsie")
- Imitate what they do - especially sounds
- Ask questions - use lots of interesting intonation to make it interesting for them
- Narrate their actions