

EARLY



LANGUAGE

SKILLS



Infants are multi-sensory learners. They use their senses simultaneously for exploring and developing skills. Sensory play gives hands on opportunities for self-expression, creativity, and understanding word meaning and language concepts.

Infant Stimuli

The amount of language a baby is exposed to, the more refined their language skills will be later. There are a variety of techniques for enhancing language skills while strengthening the bond between you and your baby.

- Talking
- Reading books aloud
- Reciting rhymes
- Singing songs/lullabies
- Listening to music

Sensory activities give positive affects that are necessary for early literacy.

- Learns to use different cries to express needs.
- Shows awareness when you are talking.
- Recognizes their name when called.
- Recognizes the relationship between words and objects.
- Learns facial expressions and body language.
- Encourages first communication efforts.
- Develops listening skills.
- Develops focus/visual tracking.
- Builds vocabulary.
- Learns speech patterns.
- Comprehends what is being said.
- Phonogram awareness.
- Develops emotional and social skills.
- Reinforces good communication habits.
- Follows directions.
- Use correct grammar.

Strengthening Language Skills

Just Talk

Talking to your baby provides how language is utilized. Talking about or asking questions during play gives meaning to sounds, objects, tastes, and textures.

- Describe daily routines, think aloud, share ideas with expressions.
- During play, use action verbs, and label objects with words.
- Build vocabulary by...
 - Using new words
 - Expand sentences using adjectives and action verbs.
 - Interchange familiar words with synonyms and supply word definition.
- When baby's babble consists of vowel sounds, repeat the sound and mix in words that use the same sound.
- Give meaning to baby's gestures, baby talk, and facial expressions by repeating and labeling it with a word.
- Provide examples of joint communication skills by...
 - Listen to baby until being quiet before responding back.
 - Ask your baby questions about their action, pause, and follow up with a response.
- Encourage and praise communication efforts.
- Ask open-ended questions to toddlers to encourage discussion.

Literacy skills applied: focusing, vision tracking, listening, attention, grammar usage, vocabulary expansion, and communication skills.

Music and Songs

Did you know music is linked to literacy development?

- Builds vocabulary.
- Strengthens listening and attention skills.
- Improves phonological awareness by associating sounds with symbols - developing word recognition and decoding skills.

Rhymes

Rhymes enhances language skills by:

- Sequencing
- Speech patterns
- Phonemic Awareness
- Memory and recall skills

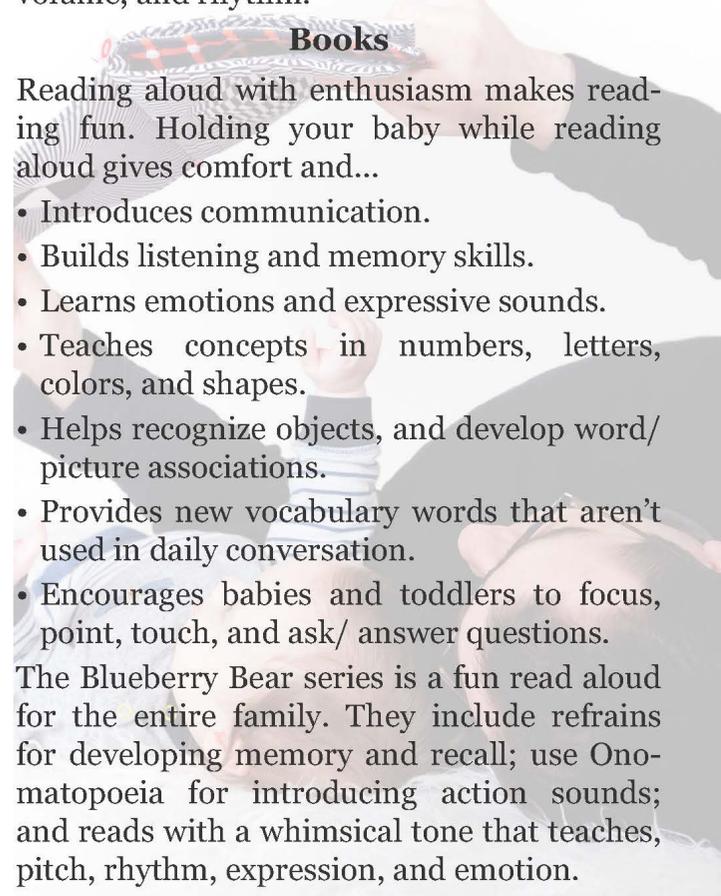
Rhymes also teach pitch, voice reflection, volume, and rhythm.

Books

Reading aloud with enthusiasm makes reading fun. Holding your baby while reading aloud gives comfort and...

- Introduces communication.
- Builds listening and memory skills.
- Learns emotions and expressive sounds.
- Teaches concepts in numbers, letters, colors, and shapes.
- Helps recognize objects, and develop word/picture associations.
- Provides new vocabulary words that aren't used in daily conversation.
- Encourages babies and toddlers to focus, point, touch, and ask/ answer questions.

The Blueberry Bear series is a fun read aloud for the entire family. They include refrains for developing memory and recall; use Onomatopoeia for introducing action sounds; and reads with a whimsical tone that teaches, pitch, rhythm, expression, and emotion.



The Difference Between Language and Communication Skills

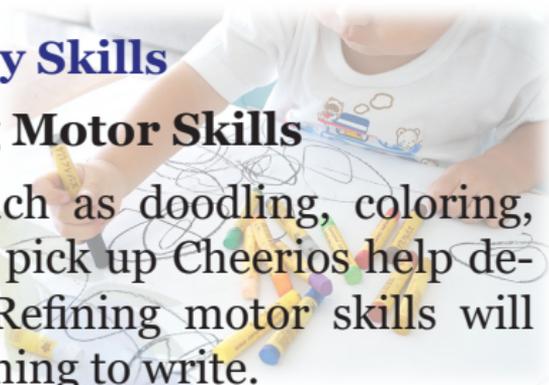
Communication and language skills go hand-in-hand, but are also independent of each other.

Communication is to effectively exchange knowledge, ideas, opinions, and/or values between people.

Language is the structure of words, signs, and symbols. Language skills consist of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Additional Literacy Skills

Refining Motor Skills

Sensory activities such as doodling, coloring, and even learning to pick up Cheerios help develop motor skills. Refining motor skills will play a role when learning to write. 

Eye Tracking/Visual Skills

Encourage eye movement with rattles, mobiles, and bubbles. These activities will help your child learn to follow words and pictures in a book.

Research:
Education.com

Dr. Robert Titzer

Room to Grow, by T. Wright

State of Opportunity, by Paulette Parker

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, by
Nicole Gardner-Neblett and Kathleen Cranley Gallagher



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