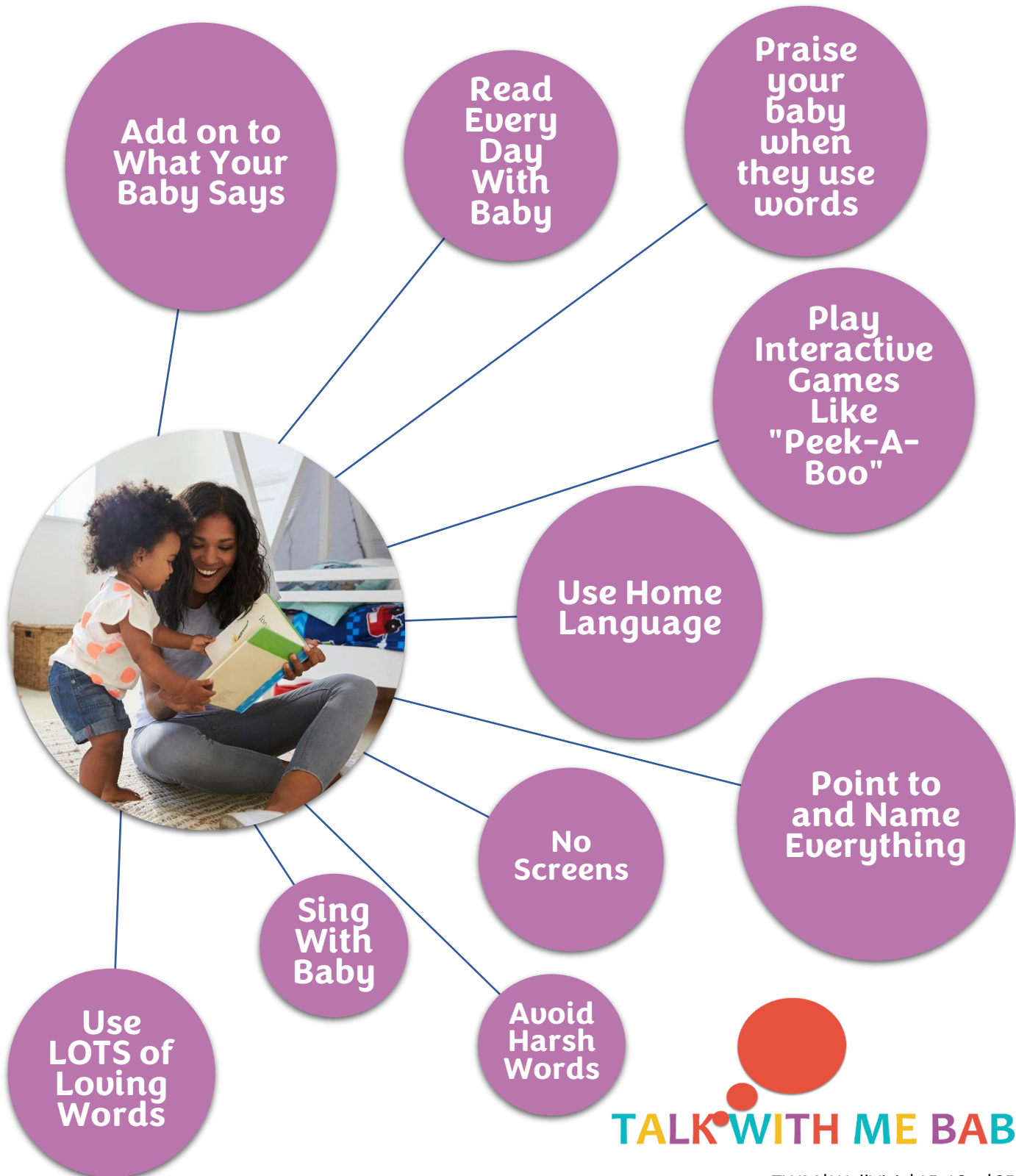


The SMARTEST babies have parents, caregivers, and family members who:



How I Communicate

I am ready to touch, taste, smell, see hear all the things around me! **You are my first and best teacher!** Positive interactions with you and the world around me strengthens our bond and helps prepare my brain for all future learning. At 18 months, I am more mobile and using basic words. I also love to play and explore. I am showing off my independence and find ways to express my needs.

What I Need to Thrive

Nursery rhymes are so much more than fun little poems. They help your child notice and play with the sounds and rhythm of words, learn to speak with animated voices, and how to predict what word comes next. Help your child learn words while they move by combining rhyming with rhythmic clapping and other movements. Rhyming songs and poems teach your child about the patterns of sounds and help your child follow directions as you sing the words. This kind of play involves your child's whole body, which may make it easier for them to connect the motion with the words you say.

When you're reading a book with rhymes, pause and give your child a chance to chime in. The rhyming structure itself provides a great cue for what guessing word is next, which allows your child to play with sound and also to participate in the reading process.

Encourage wordplay using poems, rhymes, or songs. Make up silly rhymes that include your child's name, such as, "Did Matt sit on the cat?" Or try working together to tell a little story about a cat chasing a rat. You could even make your own rhyming book by writing it down the sentence and draw pictures to go along with it. When you help your child explore the sounds and rhythm of their language with nursery rhymes, rhyming games, songs, and poems, you're helping them learn skills important for learning to read, write, and create mental pictures from words.

At 18 months, your child is saying more and more words every month and will often repeat the last or most important word that you say. They have likely also discovered the power of the word 'no' and will shake their head while they say it.

Asking your child questions teaches them that their ideas, thoughts, feelings, and opinions matter. Giving them the opportunity to share their thoughts teaches them to use their words to express themselves. It gives them an outlet and gives them a voice.

There are two main types of questions: close-ended and open-ended. Close ended questions are questions that require 1-2 words to respond, like 'Do you want some yogurt?' or 'What sound does a dog make?' Open-ended questions allow children to think critically, express their own thoughts, give more than a one-word response, and don't always have a right or wrong answer, like 'Why do you think Sammy is sad?' or 'I wonder what the fish is thinking about.'

You can also help your child learn to use their words by encouraging them to use language to make ask for things. When they ask for yogurt by pointing at it, respond by saying something like, 'Do you want some yogurt? Can you say yogurt?' They won't get it the first time but will get better every time they practice.



SELECTED RESOURCES FOR 15-18 Months

To check out all the resources in the Sesame Workshop about learning language, click [here](#).

Article

Language-Learning Through the Five Senses

Language and Literacy Baby (0-1) Toddler (1-3) Preschooler (3-5)
Kindergarten (5-6)

Use a child's natural curiosity as a way to spark a love of language.

Share Favorite en Español



Young children are naturally curious about the world around them. They touch, feel, see, hear, and taste. Paying attention to what their senses are telling them can spark interaction and teach new words. This can happen anywhere—riding on the bus, walking past a restaurant, while preparing dinner—

just about every time and place holds an opportunity for developing language! To read more, click [here](#).

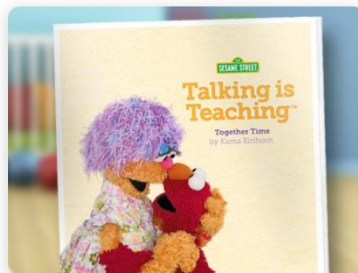
Storybook

Talking is Teaching Storybook

Language and Literacy Baby (0-1) Toddler (1-3)

Use this storybook to connect with your youngest children.

Launch Share Favorite en Español



This is an interactive storybook for parents/caregivers and children to read together. Not recommended for children under the age of 3 to use for solo play. Please note: We recommend that you disable the audio and read to your child. To get started, click [here](#).

Video

Looking at Books

Learning Through Play Milestones Parenting Childcare Language and Literacy

Reading Baby (0-1) Toddler (1-3) Preschooler (3-5) Kindergarten (5-6)

Under 5 min

Books are a great way to bond with children of all ages.

Watch Video Share Favorite en Español



This instructional video is for parents & caregivers about reading books. Sharing books (from day one!) can be a special time to bond, expose kids to new words and stories, and understand their interests and personalities. To get started, click [here](#).