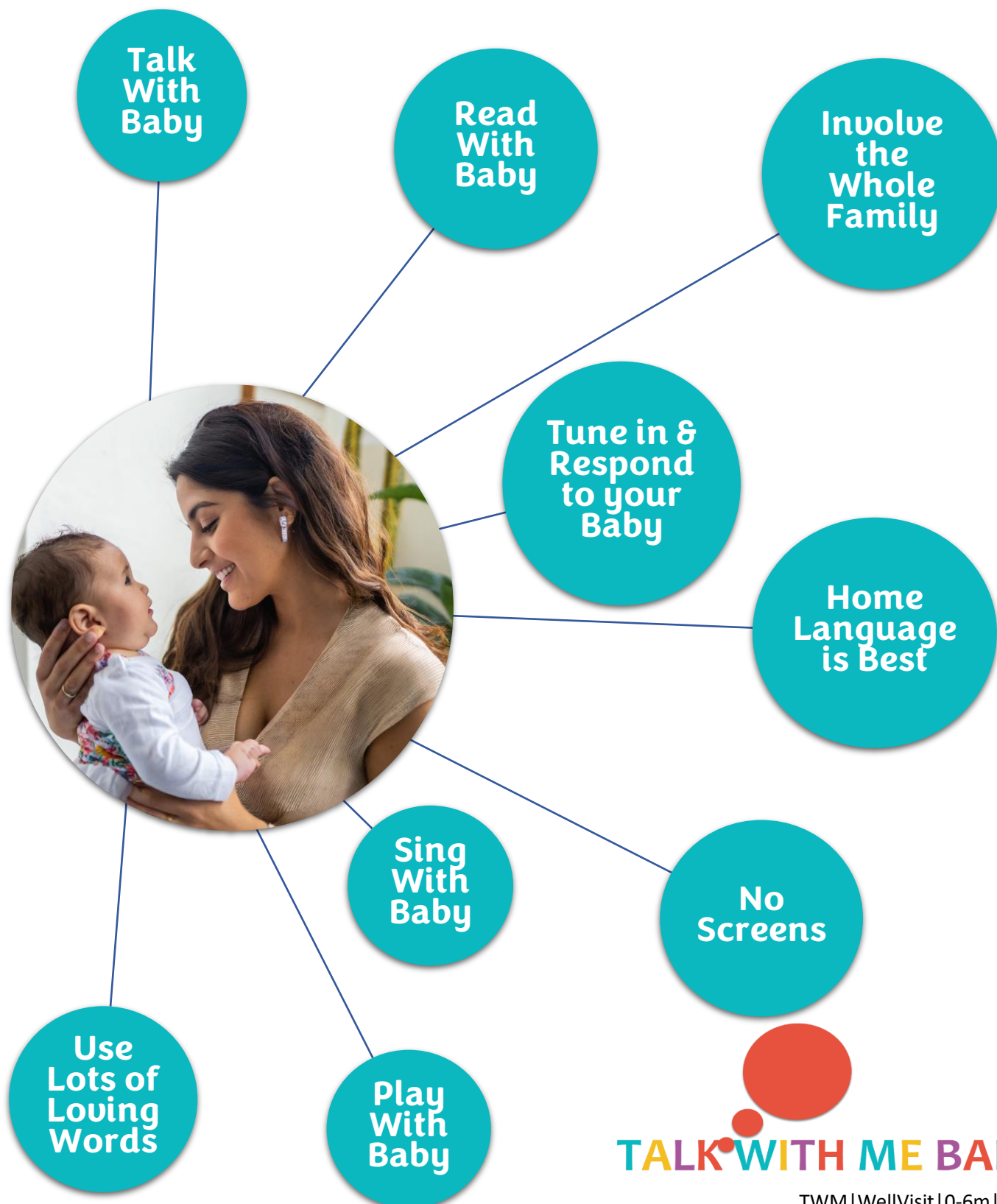


The **SMARTEST** babies have parents, caregivers, and family members who:



How I Communicate

I am born into the world with 100 billion brain cells (called neurons), ready to connect with my parents and caregivers. My brain grows when the neurons communicate and connect with each other through positive experiences with my family and the world. Even though I'm not talking yet, I am an effective communicator. Listening to you and watching you form your words helps me understand the basics of communication. I'm connecting with new sounds around me and need repeated joyful interactions to feel physically and emotionally safe. This helps nurture even more positive experiences between us. Treat my babbles, squeals and giggles as my contribution to our discussion. As we collaborate throughout the day, we are building my language and communication skills.

What I Need to Thrive

Talk, read, sing, and play with your baby often using loving tones, exaggerated facial expressions, and gentle touch to build their brain, strengthen your relationship with them, and build their language and literacy skills.

Noticing and responding to baby's cues teaches them that their cues mean something and encourages communication to become more intentional. Responsive interactions build your baby's brain, strengthens your relationship with them, teaches them how conversations look, sound, and feel (an important preliteracy skill), and so much more.

Use the **TALK** strategy to have back-and-forth conversations with your baby. TALK is an acronym to help you have loving, brain-building conversations with your baby.

T - Tune In. Notice and respond to your baby's cues and interests.

A - Ask Questions. Remember to pause for their response.

L - Lift Language. Use real words and complete sentences -- not baby talk.

K - Keep It Going. Tune into another cue or ask another question.

Your baby loves the sound of your voice. They particularly love it when you use 'parentese', that sing-songy voice we naturally use with babies. Use parentese and exaggerated facial expressions to keep baby's attention and help them learn the sounds of their language. Knowing and mastering the sounds of words is a critical for your baby learning to talk and eventually how to read.

Babies build their vocabulary by linking words to things, people, actions, and thoughts. One simple way to help them make these types of connections is to narrate their day. Be your baby's newscaster by talking about what they're seeing, doing, feeling, or experiencing. 'Brrr! That ice cube is so cold. I bet your finger got cold when you touched it. Was it cold?' And don't forget to use the language you are most comfortable speaking! Babies can learn multiple languages at a time!

Everyone and anyone can help nourish your baby with language. Include everyone in the family in the conversation and encourage them to have their own conversations with their youngest family member. When choosing caregivers for your baby, make sure they nourish your baby with language throughout the day and be sure to pass the conversation baton when dropping off and picking up your baby from a caregiver.



SELECTED RESOURCES FOR 0- 6 Months

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



Parents/Caregivers can explore the many ways that children learn language from zero to three with this interactive learning tool. To get started, click [here](#).

Article

Ages & Stages: Talking

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

Develop a child's language skills at any age with these tips.

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To learn about the many opportunities to talk with little ones all day long as they grow, read this informative article by clicking [here](#).

Article

Language in Everyday Moments

Learning Through Routines Language and Literacy Baby (0-1) Toddler (1-3)

Preschooler (3-5) Kindergartner (5-6)

Use these ideas to help children learn all day long.

Share

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For great ideas to develop language during everyday moments, click [here](#).