

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

Ask questions and give choices for answers

Have a set time to read every day

Describe things in detail, using lots of new words

Pretend Play and Make Believe

Use Home Language

Use gestures like waving, nodding, and blowing kisses

No Screens

Sing With Baby

Avoid Harsh Words

Use LOTS of Loving Words



How I Communicate

I am discovering how new words are connected to the world around me. I can now pair a few words together and follow simple instructions. Tune in to what I am doing and respond in consistent, loving ways.

What I Need to Thrive

At 24 months, your child's vocabulary seems to be growing by the day. They are able to answer simple questions using more than just yes or no and will use 2-3 words to talk about and ask for things, like 'More milk'.

Phonics is understanding the relationship between letters and sounds and is skill your child needs to learn to read and write. An early part of phonics is phonological awareness, which is knowing that sounds and letters are connected. You easily can help your child develop phonological awareness at home with fun games and activities.

Sing the alphabet with them and do it a lot. Be sure to slow down when you get to 'L-M-N-O' so that it doesn't sound like one letter. 😊

Point to letters of the alphabet as you say their names, and don't always go in order.

Look for letters wherever you go and think of other words that start with the same sound. Have fun hunting for letters on signs, cereal boxes, book covers, and toys.

Make flashcards to play simple letter games such as Memory or Go Fish. Or write simple words like 'CAT' on a piece of paper, point to the first letter, and ask for the sound. Do the same thing for the next two letters (in order).

Keep using the **TALK** strategy and taking turns to have brain-building conversations with your baby.

T - Tune In. Follow their lead and engage in conversations around their interests.

A - Ask Questions. Use questions and pause to prompt them to respond.

L - Lift Language. Help them learn new words and how to say them by repeating the full word they are attempting. When they point to a dog and say 'Dah. Dah', lift their language by saying, 'Yes. That is a dog. What is the dog doing?'

K - Keep It Going. Learning to take turns is important in many parts of life, like conversations and playing. Slowly increase the number of back-and-forths in your conversations with your baby to help them learn this important skill.



SELECTED RESOURCES FOR 24 Months

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

Article

A Mighty Voice

Language and Literacy Reading

Finding confidence in the ways that you tell stories will make them even more special to the children you share them with.

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Finding confidence in the ways that you tell stories will make them even more special to the children you share them with. To learn more about Reading with A Mighty Voice, click [here](#).

Video

Listen & Talk Together

Language and Literacy Baby (0–1) Toddler (1–3) Preschooler (3–5)
Kindergarten (5–6) Under 5 min

Incorporate simple songs into your everyday activities to help your child learn language.

Watch Video

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Singing and talking together is a great way to build language skills and strong relationships. To learn more in this video, click [here](#).

Storybook

Reading Adventures

School Readiness Language and Literacy Vocabulary Reading Toddler (1–3)
Preschooler (3–5) Kindergarten (5–6)

Sharing stories now lays the foundation for a lifetime of reading.

Launch

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This interactive reading game can help build vocabulary and early reading skills when parents/caregivers and children to play together. It's not recommended for children under the age of 3 to use for solo play. To launch your Reading Adventure, click [here](#).