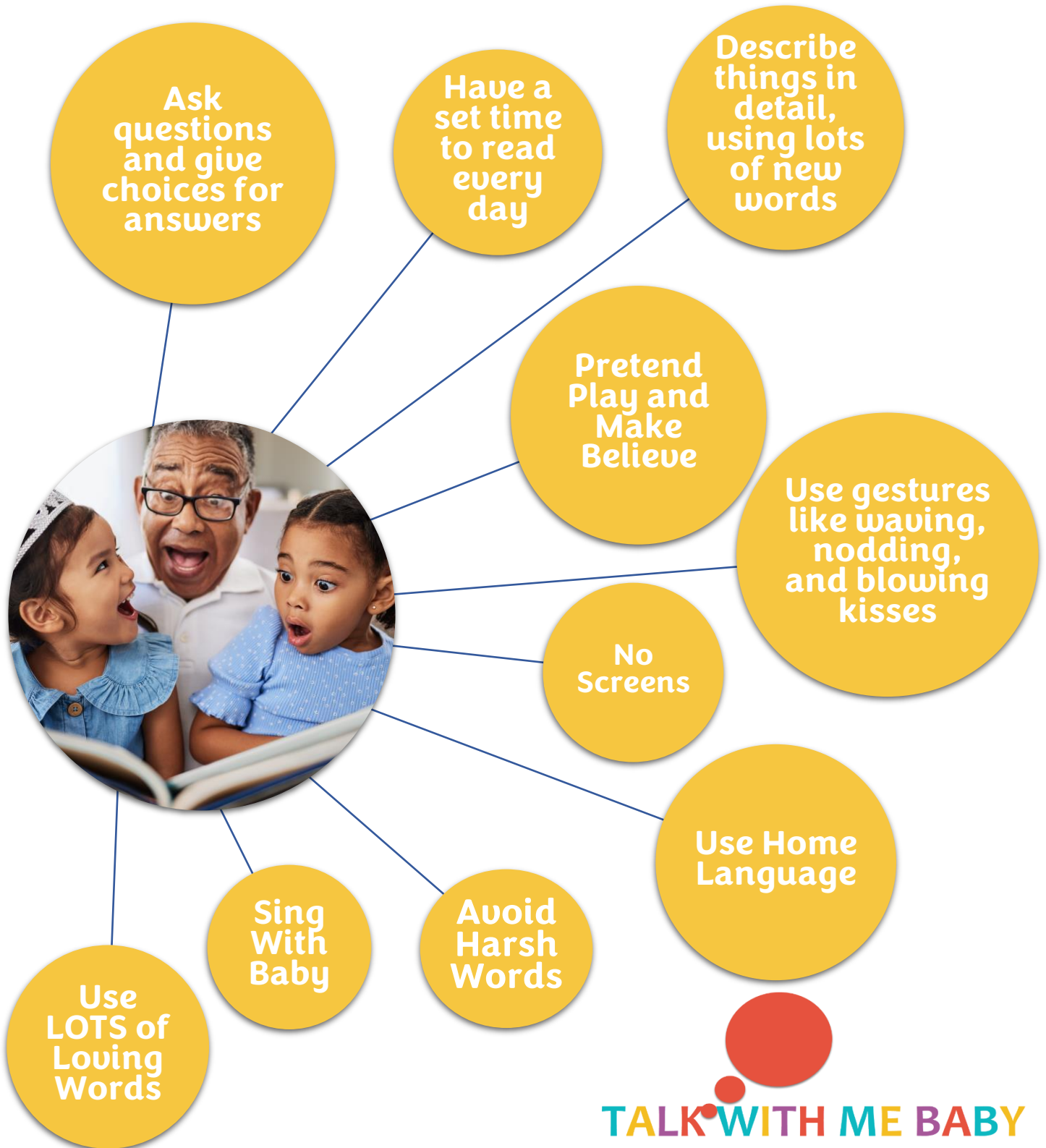


The SMARTEST babies have parents, caregivers, and family members who:



How I Communicate

I learn best by exploration! Quality interactions also establish a strong foundation for me to become a creative, engaged life-long learner. Exploration also allows me to experiment, create, innovate, problem solve, makes mistakes, and build healthy bonds with you and others.

I am fascinated by the world around me. Everywhere I go, I am curious about what I see and do. This leads to questions that can spark new exploration and learning. Encourage my curiosity to help me to become an active and engaged learner. When you ask me open-ended questions, it give me an opportunity to process what I'm learning and use more language.

What I Need to Thrive

Build a love for learning, language, and literacy by engaging in their interests. If they love vehicles, help them explore the topic with books, stories, play, and safe experiences. Share books and stories that have cars, trucks, planes, blimps, and boats. Talk about the vehicles you see on outings or in your community. Have fun making up stories with them that have vehicles and encourage problem solving with vehicle themed games and puzzles. Following their lead strengthens your bond with them, helps them develop their own interests, and lets them be creative.

Storytime, with or without books is a great chance to connect with your child, teach them more words, and build a love for books and reading. You don't need books or know how to read to build a love of stories and reading in your child. Share family stories or make up stories to share. Don't feel like you have to read word for word on the page. Make the book or story your own by using the illustrations to tell your version of the story. Or even make your own simple book.

Use the **READ** strategy with books and oral storytelling to make the most out of storytime:

R - Repeat the book (A LOT!). Your child will love listening to a story over and over again. Share the story at least 3-5 times and don't be surprised if they want more. The first couple of times focus on the actions, such as what's happening and who's doing it. The next couple of times focus on the thoughts and emotions, like what the characters are feeling and why they do the actions in the story. After that, help your child tell the story and let them share what they remember and learned about the story.

E - Engage and Enjoy. Make storytime exciting by using different voices, acting out parts of the story, and using lots of facial expressions.

A - Ask Questions. Ask questions to help your child engage more with the story. "Why do you think the turtle goes inside his shell?" "Why do you think they put a leash on the dog before they left the park?" These open-ended questions encourage conversation and let your child share their thoughts and feelings.

D - Do More. Extend the conversation (and the learning) by doing something that connects to the story. Did you read Harry the Dirty Dog? Have your child draw a picture of what their favorite pet looks like when they're clean and when they're dirty. Encourage their imagination! They can pretend to be a pet, or you can have conversations about how they would care for one.



SELECTED RESOURCES FOR 30-36 Months

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

Article

Choosing a Book

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

Learn the appropriate types of books for your child at different ages.

Share

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en Español



Books are brain boosters! The more you read to children from the very start, the more their brains will grow and their language skills will develop. Consider these tips for finding “just the right book” by clicking [here](#).

Video

Let's Make Up a Story

School Readiness Learning and Working from Home Language and Literacy Vocabulary Reading Toddler (1–3) Preschooler (3–5) Kindergarten (5–6) Under 5 min

Sharing stories can build vocabulary and critical thinking skills—and it's a great way to bond and share family culture and traditions.

Watch Video

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Oral storytelling (making up stories and telling them aloud) and other reading activities can be opportunities for great conversations and building vocabulary. Children are also learning how stories are “built” (for instance, most stories

have a beginning, middle, and end). This video is intended to be parent-caregiver-led and followed by interactive activities. It's **not recommended for solo play**. To get started making up your story, click [here](#).

Video

Language & Art

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

Explore pictures and paintings to teach your child new words.

Watch Video

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Talking about pictures and paintings is a great way to let kids know you're interested in what's going on in their imaginations. It's also a great way to begin conversations and help kids learn new words! This video is followed by interactive

activities that are parent-caregiver-led. This video is **not recommended for solo play**. To get started using art to expand language, click [here](#).