

# #TALKINGISTEACHINGTIPS CALENDAR



Talk, read, and sing with your children every day! Simple interactions like the ones below can help boost children's brain and language development, setting them up for success in school and beyond. Please share photos of your family talking, reading, and singing using the hashtag #TalkingIsTeachingTips.

- Count the trees as you walk outside. How many trees can you count?
- Compare the sizes of the trees you see. "The tree on the right is taller than the tree on the left. Do you see another tall tree?"
- Talk with your little one about how plants grow. Ask, "What do you think a plant needs to get bigger?"
- Let's use our senses! Find some grass to sit on. What color is the grass? How does it feel? How does it smell?
- Go outside with your child and listen to the sounds around you. What animals can you hear?
- Let's play pretend! Pretend to move and sound like different animals. Can you run and bark like a dog? Flap your wings and chirp like a bird?
- Play "I-Spy" outside with your child to explore the nature around you. "I spy a bright blue flower. What do you spy?"
- When you read together, let your baby help turn the pages—it can help build their interest in books.
- Grow your baby's vocabulary by using big words like "humongous" or "gigantic" instead of "big."
- At the grocery store, give your baby an apple to hold in each hand. Ask, "Which is heavier? Which is lighter?"
- Turn on your baby's favorite songs and move your bodies as you dance together!
- Your baby loves to hear your voice. Talk, read, and sing together every day.
- Go on a "shape hunt" with your little one. Search for different shapes in your home and around your neighborhood.
- Talk with your child in your native language. Speaking together in two or more language builds your baby's brain.
- Ask questions about your child's art. You can say, "I noticed you used the color blue. Why?"
- During bedtime, talk with your baby about your favorite parts of the day.
- Talk with your child about the weather each day! What do they see in the sky when it is sunny, cloudy, or rainy?
- Use mealtime as an opportunity to support your child's early math skills. Ask, "How many crackers are on your plate?" or "Which apple is bigger?"
- Have fun pretending to move and sound like different animals. "Rabbit and hop like a frog" or "chirp and flap your wings like a bird"!
- Talk about your job or workers you see out and about! What is the construction worker building? How does a firefighter help people?
- Use colors to express feelings! Encourage your child to scribble or draw a picture using colors to show how he is feeling. Talk together about the colors and feelings.
- Talk about water on a rainy or snowy day! What does water feel like? Taste like? Sound like?
- Use words to describe time with your child as you do different activities. Was the walk long or short? Do you like long walks or quick walks?
- Use your senses to explore the environment around you! What do you see? Hear? Smell?
- Go on a number hunt! Take turns pointing to and naming the numbers you see on signs, in books, or at the store!
- Have fun finding things of different sizes and using words to describe them Ask, "Can we find something big? Humongous? Small? Tiny? Short? Tall?"
- Talk about colors and clothing. Say, "I noticed you're wearing a red shirt and blue pants. What colors am I wearing?"
- Talk about shapes as you eat healthy and yummy snacks! Compare the shape of a square cracker or a round tomato!
- Spending time drawing and coloring with your child can develop her creative, motor, and language skills! Ask her to draw their favorite food or animal!
- Practice saying and spelling your child's name with them! Write it out and trace the letters together, or spell out their name in a song!

