

Share:

- 
- 
- 
- 

Like 0 Share Share:

- 
- 
- 
- 

# Network News

*e-Newsletter of the VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network*

VIRGINIA  
INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST

NETWORK

"Achieving Excellence in Early Care"

September-November 2018

Issue # 27



### In This Issue

[It's Not Just Baby Talk](#)

[Resource Spotlight](#)

[Did you know?](#)

[Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities](#)

[Working on Wonderful](#)

[Quick Links](#)

[Our Website](#)

[Our Email](#)

Like us on Facebook

## It's Not Just Baby Talk

Babbling babies can bring a smile to the faces of many adults. There is just something so precious about "aah, ooh, ba-ba-ba, da-da-da." However, there is much more happening beyond those sounds. Language development is occurring and has been for quite some time, even before the baby was born. Language development is a continuous

process that begins at birth; is connected to literacy, thinking, and social emotional skills; is enhanced by responsive interactions with caregivers; and rooted in a child's family and culture.

## Why is babbling important?

**Babbling** is an infant's attempt to figure out how to produce all the sounds heard every day. Between six to eight weeks, babies begin to coo, practicing long vowel sounds, like "aah" and "ooh." Around six to nine months, babies begin to make a series of consonant vowel sounds, like "ma-ma-ma," "da-da-da," or "ba-ba-ba." This kind of babbling allows children to practice making a variety of sounds. Babies actually have to practice moving their tongues and mouths in the correct way. This helps them to produce the same speech sounds they have been listening to for months. Babbling is important because the amount a baby babbles predicts later vocabulary ability. Babies who babble early and frequently say their first words sooner and have larger vocabularies when they begin kindergarten.

## How can I support language development in my infants and toddlers?

Responding to babies babbling can support their language development and even lead to larger vocabularies over time. Research shows that when caregivers respond to an infant's babbling consistently or in direct response to a child's babble, rapid language learning takes place. Below are some strategies for talking with children:

- **Be responsive:** When children imitate communication, prompt and appropriate responses help teach infants the power of their early messages. Imitate infants' smiles and coos. With toddlers, respond to their words with comments or questions. For example, the child says, "ball" and the adult responds, "Yes, this is a red ball."
- **Engage in nonverbal communication:** Language is learned more easily if we give and respond to nonverbal cues such as using the pointing gesture and looking where we are pointing. For example, look and point when you say, "Here is your bear." Manual communication is essential for children with a hearing impairment.
- **Use child-directed language:** Adapt communication to the child's level. Speak more slowly, in shorter sentences, and in a higher than normal pitch. Use repetition as it gives babies a chance to figure things out. For example, repeat sounds the baby makes such as "ba, ba, ba."
- **Use self talk and parallel talk:** Self talk is describing your actions as you do them. For example, when getting a child ready to go outside, the adult says, "I am taking your jacket out of your cubby. You have a red jacket. I am zipping up your jacket." Parallel talk is narrating what a child is doing while they are doing it. For example, while a child is playing on the floor, the adult says, "You are putting the truck on the floor. You make it go by pushing it." Both self talk and parallel talk help children connect actions and experiences.
- **Help children expand language:** Name things and add to what children say. Model correct language for children rather than correcting their language. Build on a child's interests. The richest talk involves turn taking in which the adult builds on and connects with the child's statements and questions. Use the plus one rule. If the child says one word, you add another word. The child says "dog" and you say "big dog." In addition, asking open-ended questions that require a child to answer with several words extends conversations. Research shows that asking children many questions and using descriptive language in a way that invites them to talk more, enhances their language learning and later success in school.

## Language can also be built by incorporating the ideas below:

- **Daily Routines:** talk about daily activities; what children are doing; how things look, feel, and smell
- **Books:** talk about what the characters are doing and thinking, what will happen next; ask questions; use different voices for each character
- **Storytelling:** retell stories from books, real-life, and pretend events; act out stories
- **Pretend play:** create theme-based areas, provide an array of props and materials, combine themes
- **Songs and Finger Plays:** sing songs; use puppets; add new word variation
- **Trips/Outings:** talk about where you are; what is happening; about the trees, flowers, sky, grass, birds, leaves, cars

Click [HERE](#)  
for an example of a little girl using babble to communicate with her  
parents.

This little girl's parents are helping her learn language by responding with  
facial expressions, adding comments, and asking questions.

Children develop language skills when they are engaged in close emotionally supported relationships that encourage them to share their thoughts, ideas, observations, and feelings with the adults who care for them. Infants as young as a few months old begin to learn their family's communication style. If a baby's home culture is one of quiet interaction with a limited amount of talk between adults and children, his or her communication style may be quite different from a baby whose home culture provides lively, frequent conversations. However, in all cultures, adults play an important role in the process of learning language. By using language building activities, you encourage children to express their ideas and creativity and to become confident communicators.

#### **References:**

Cornell University. "Babies babbling betters brains, language." *ScienceDaily*. *ScienceDaily*, 18 January 2018.

[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180118142545.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180118142545.htm)

Duke University. "Car, stroller, juice: Babies understand when words are related: Eye-tracking data reveal babies understand more of what we say than previously thought." *ScienceDaily*. *ScienceDaily*, 20 November 2017.

[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/11/171120174513.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/11/171120174513.htm)

Babbling babies: Early language development. National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/babbling-babies-early-language-development>

Child Trends. Baby babble turns to talk. July 2018.

First Words Project. <http://firstwordsproject.com>

## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Virginia's *Milestones of Child Development* is a set of child development indicators and strategies for adults designed to support the growth and development of young children from birth to kindergarten entry. These are organized by domain area and arranged in a gradual progression by approximate age range. This document includes language milestones which show how babies up to 18 months and toddlers 18 to 36 months are learning language skills.

To access the full *Milestones of Child Development*, click [HERE](#)

If you are interested in learning more about language development, click [HERE](#) for details about an eight-session course, which includes multimedia content from The Center on the Developing Child. It is designed to empower and support families so they can engage in meaningful conversations with their young children and advance their language and lifelong learning.

## DID YOU KNOW . . . ?



..... [First Words Project](#)  
has a **Communication Checklist** with what to expect from 9-24 month old children in regards to gestures, sounds, and words?

Click [HERE](#) for the checklist

# Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities



Fall 2018 Training	Locations and Dates
Arlington	September 22 and 29
Abingdon	September 22 and 29
Montpelier	Sept. 29 and Oct. 6
Charlottesville	October 6 and 13
Norfolk	Nov. 17 and Dec. 1

**8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

[Click here for the Fall 2018 1-2-3 READ! brochure](#)

Register online at [www.va-itsnetwork.org](http://www.va-itsnetwork.org)



**Center on the Social  
and Emotional  
Foundations for  
Early Learning  
(CSEFEL) Modules 1 & 2**

Fall 2018 Training	Locations and Dates
Sterling	October 13 and 20
Axton	October 13 and 20
Arlington	December 1 and 8
Culpeper	December 1 and 15

**8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

[Click here for the Fall 2018 CSEFEL brochure](#)

Register online at [www.va-itsnetwork.org](http://www.va-itsnetwork.org)

Working on Wonderful (WOW)

# Congratulations to the following programs that have recently completed Level 1 services with the VA ITSN!

Tuckaway Innsbrook	Central	The Potter's House Preschool	North Central
Heavenly Playhouse Childcare Center	Central	Minnieland at Central Park	North Central
Tuckaway Elwood	Central	Mary Kenyon	North Central
The Wiley CDC Northern Neck YMCA	Central	Salem Fields Community Church Learning Center	North Central
Tuckaway Varina (Infants)	Central	Bridget Johnson	North Central
Norfolk Montessori Academy	Eastern	Faith Academy	North Central
Apple Tree Learning Center #1008	Eastern	Minnieland Academy at Occoquan	North Central
Jump'n Jelly Beans	Eastern	Rebecca Washington	North Central
Liberty Baptist Preschool and Academy	Eastern	Rashida Perveen	Northern
Imagination Learning Center	Northern	Seven Corners Children's Center	Northern
Patricia Parrish	Piedmont Southside	Rosa Nunez	Northern
Cynthia's Child Care	Piedmont Southside	Rising Stars	Northern
Tiny Saints Christian Academy	Valley	Balinda Bordley	Northern
Melissa Chapman	Western	Countryside Children's Academy	Northern
Cheryl Mormon	Central	Gladys Chian-Reyes	Northern
Eagle Safe Haven Family Day Home	Central	Happy Hearts	Northern
Nefertiti Brown	Central	Margaret Campos	Northern
Theresa Gillus Carter	Central	Sunshine and Sprouts Learning Daycare	Northern
Leona Buford	Central	Siham Errouah	Northern
Tuckaway West	Central	Montessori Children's House of Loudoun	Northern
Nurturing Minds of Value	Eastern	UCM Learning Center	Northern
Tonya's In Home Child Care	Eastern	Fabiola's Home Daycare	Northern
The Village Child Care Community	Eastern	My Little Sunshine	Northern
Mini Miracles Learning Center	Eastern	Nyree Afelbil	Northern
Beach Gathering Montessori Preschool	Eastern	Sunshine & Sprout Day Care	Northern
Childrens Learning Paradise	Eastern	Lily Salazar	Northern
Little Lamplight Child Devopment Home	Eastern	Kiddie Academy of South Riding	Northern
Rose's Rosebuds	Eastern	Maria Sanchez Cerro	Northern
DreamGivers	Eastern	Karla Talavera	Northern
Early Resultz Daycare & Learning Center	Eastern	Odilia Elizabeth Barillas	Northern
Children's Harbor Suffolk	Eastern	Sara's Daycare	Northern
Oak and Lily Academy	Eastern	Starting Point Academy	Peninsula
Measures of Love	Eastern	Bethel Child Development	Peninsula
Jennifer Rivera Rodriguez	North Central	Playtime Learning Center	Peninsula
Gloria Fulcher	North Central	The Playhouse Daycare	Peninsula
Joyful Tots "Where Kids Bee Happy"	Peninsula	Tick Tock Around the Clock	Peninsula
My Teacher's House Learning			

Center	Peninsula	Stepping Stones CDC- Jefferson	Peninsula
Stepping Stones CDC- Warwick	Peninsula	A Heavenly Haven	Peninsula
Vanessa Frazier	Peninsula	Life Academy	Piedmont Roanoke
Jennifer Hopper	Piedmont Roanoke	Honey Tree Early Learning Center #1 - Salem	Piedmont Roanoke
Greenvale School	Piedmont Roanoke	Abundant Life	Piedmont Southside
Clydie Harrison	Piedmont Southside	Linda Gilbert	Piedmont Southside
Families First	Piedmont Southside	Mt. Calvary Pentecostal Holiness Church	Piedmont Southside
Rainbow Child Care Center	Valley	Jupiter Learning Academy	Valley
Little Angels Daycare	Valley	Kelly Inglett	Valley
Dawn Sullivan	Valley	Children of America Winchester	Valley
All Kidz Childcare	Valley	Flip Flop Child Care	Valley
Steps of Faith Academy	Western	Antioch Baptist Academy	Western
Rooftop/ Independence Early Head Start	Western	Duffield Early Head Start	Western
Weber City Early Head Start	Western	Tammy Gillespie	Western
Tazewell Early Head Start	Western	Valerie Taylor	Western
Knapp Thyme	Western	Belinda Hubble	Western



*The VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network is a program of Child Development Resources, and is supported by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Grant #93.575, with funds made available to Virginia from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of VDSS or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

*For more information contact Amy Stutt, VA ITSN Statewide Director at (757)378-3167.*

**Confirm that you like this.**

Click the "Like" button.

**Confirm that you like this.**

Click the "Like" button.