



Baby Talk: Resources to Support the People Who Work with Infants and Toddlers

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Temperament: What It Is and Why It Matters

Children are born with their own ways of responding to the world. This is called temperament. Understanding a child's temperament can help you choose strategies that nurture a child's development. Visit this website to learn more about what temperament is and how to support young children of different temperaments.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/behaviour/understanding-behaviour/temperament>

Why All Babies Love Peekaboo

Peekaboo is a game played over the world, crossing language and cultural barriers. Why is it so universal? Perhaps because it's such a powerful learning tool. Find out how this simple interaction can build a baby's brain.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20140417-why-all-babies-love-peekaboo>

How Children Respond to Strangers Makes a Difference

Researchers from the University of Maryland collected data from 291 kids between the ages of two and three years old and found that kids who have a negative response to strangers, or behavioral inhibition, were more likely to develop an anxiety disorder when they were teens. The researchers also suggest the kids who displayed behavioral inhibition were more likely to react in the moment to a specific situation rather than use information to prepare themselves for an appropriate response. However, the researchers found that when the kids used more proactive control, which involves planning for the future and being goal oriented, they were less likely to exhibit anxiety later in life. Learn more about what this means for children you support at <https://positiveparentingnews.org/news-reports/planning-ahead-fights-risk-factor-for-anxiety/>

No Matter How Bad Toddlers Are at Imitating You, It's Doing Wonders for Their Brains

In a lighthearted way, this article offers examples of how mimicry and imitation build language and cognitive skills. It also offer insights into how to increase opportunities for children to learn from what they see and hear you do.

<https://www.fatherly.com/health-science/imitation-important-toddler/>

BONUS: Don't miss this great video illustrating imitation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5XWwpjlfk>

Science Shows Benefits from Conversational Turn-Taking with Babies

A large body of evidence shows that it is not passive hearing – or even the amount of words a child is exposed to – that matters most in language development. Instead it is the quality of the conversation that is important. That is, the back and forth, turn-taking nature that requires listening and responding. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and Roberta Golinkoff refer to this as a “conversational duet,” because “you can't sing it alone.” In fact, another study found that if a conversation is interrupted by a phone call, a child will not learn a newly presented word, but will learn it if the conversation is not interrupted. Read more at <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20191001-the-word-gap-that-affects-how-your-babys-brain-grows>

BONUS: Don't miss this great video illustrating turn-taking: <https://www.popsugar.com/family/Viral-Video-Baby-Boy-Talking-is-Dad-46235433>

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