



★ Early Essentials ★

## Quick Start Guide for Language Development

### Know the Essentials

- Language is about communication, and also about community, culture, and connection.
- Babies communicate before they can talk, using gestures, babbles, and other cues to indicate their needs.
- When adults listen to and talk with babies, they help them form attachments and build relationships with those around them.
- Listening to and talking with a baby helps the baby form a sense of identity.
- Language helps young children make connections and understand what's going on in the world around them.
- A child's home language is the foundation for all other language learning.

### Take a Deeper Look

- Growing up, how were you taught to talk and listen to babies?
- How do you use routines to communicate and connect with the children in your care?
- How do you help families identify language goals for their child?
- How do you support families' enjoyment of their child's communication?

### Explore Resources

- Read and complete the Study Guide: **News You Can Use: Foundations of School Readiness: Language and Literacy** at: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/school-readiness/nycusrlanglit.htm>
- Read and complete the Study Guide: **Hablemos de... El desarrollo del lenguaje y la lectoescritura emergente y su relación con la preparación para la escuela** at: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Espanol/esp-ehs/ehs/desarrollo-infantil/hd-lenguaje.html>
- Read **More Than Baby Talk: 10 Ways to Promote the Language and Communication Skills of Infants and Toddlers** at: <http://mtbt.fpg.unc.edu/node/4>
- Listen to the live- stream session from BTT Institute 2014: **Track A: Inclusive Child Development: Dual Language Development in Children Prenatal to Three** at: [http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/btt/archive\\_2014.html](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/btt/archive_2014.html)
- Read **Strategies for Supporting All Dual Language Learners** at: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/fcp/docs/dll-strategies.pdf>
- Complete **Module 3: The Importance of Early Interactions** especially focusing on slides 9-12 at: <http://ilabs.washington.edu/outreach-modules>



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## Practice Moment, Language Development

### Practice

Record your notes from watching the Practice Moment. Then, reflect on early language development, using the questions below as a guide.

**In Alicia's family child care program, there are lots of back-and-forth interactions between the toddler and family child care provider during this routine diaper change.**

**How might you...**

- Use routines to support language development?
- Show a child you are interested in his communication?

**This Early Head Start teacher notices this toddler's interest in water coming from a downspout, and builds on his interest to expand his language.**

**How might you...**

- Use a child's interests to support and foster language development?
- Follow a child's lead to expand vocabulary and learning?
- Use language to extend her learning?

**This home visitor is encouraging the mother to take the lead in supporting the child's language development. She also is showing how she values the family's home language.**

**How might you...**

- Encourage families to support their child's language development?
- Reinforce for families the importance of helping their child develop their home language?