

Birth to
 Five

WAYS TO EXPAND **YOUNG INFANTS'**
 COMMUNICATIONS

One of the main ways of extending conversations with children is to expand on their communications. This process begins at birth, well before a baby says her first word. By responding to a young infant's facial expressions, gestures, body language, and vocalizations, you lay the foundation for meaningful back-and-forth exchanges.

Expand on children's communications to provide a foundation for language and conversation.



Describe in words what you see me communicating.

Interpret and give words to my facial expression, gesture, cooing, or babbling.

Use interesting words to respond to me.

Expand to give young infants information about their communications.



Clarify and summarize my thoughts.

Relate to my life.

Link to prior knowledge.

Relate to my actions.

Apply to my world.

Explain thinking.

Connect concepts.

Ask open-ended questions that support higher-level thinking.