

Basic Foundations

Birth to Three Years — English Language Arts

Children learn to communicate long before they speak. Babies are big communicators by using sounds, gestures, and facial expressions. Children learn listening skills by one-on-one, face-to-face interactions with caring adults in their lives.

Listening and Speaking



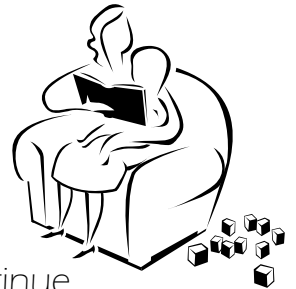
Young children are learning when they —

- * Smile and laugh when looked at or spoken to—those coos mean so much.
- * Vary pitch, length and volume of sounds to express wants and needs—the louder they get, the more they want it.
- * Vocalize while looking at a book—they begin “reading” for the first time.
- * Follow simple directions with prompts—can help pick-up the toys before going to bed.
- * Use action words—will state that we are “going” to the store.



Adults are being supportive when they —

- * Maintain eye contact—the child knows that you are listening.
- * Imitate child’s sounds and gestures—this encourages them to continue “communicating.”
- * Keep language simple—don’t overwhelm them with big words.
- * Give one-step directions—“show me your nose” or “hand me the book.”
- * Repeat and expand on what a child says—explain that you will be driving the car to go to the store to get the bread, eggs, and milk.



Websites for Fun and Ideas—

www.americanbaby.com

www.parents.com

babyparenting.about.com

Based on the
FOUNDATIONS to the Indiana Academic Standards
for Young Children from Birth to Age 5
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The Indiana Partnerships Center
921 E. 86th Street, Suite 108
Indianapolis, IN 46240
(317) 205-2595
(866) 391-1039
www.fscp.org



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