

INFANT & TODDLER LANGUAGE

Birth-1 year

- Coo, smile, and copy sounds or faces
- Begin to know the names of familiar things
- Respond to caregivers' voices
- Say first words around 8-12 months

1-2 years

- Use short sentences with 2-4 words
- Pretend to read and ask you to read
- Follow simple directions
- Know around 50-100 words

2-3 years

- Speak clearly so others understand
- Enjoy reading, repeat parts of favorite books
- Ask for help and say what they need
- Know around 500 words



What to do if you're worried about your child's growth

- Use the Sparkler app to complete the ASQ questionnaire



Scan QR code to download the Sparkler app

Use the access code **OH** to register after downloading.

- Talk to your child's doctor about your concerns
- Call Help Me Grow to ask about your child's growth: 1-800-755-GROW (4769)



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TIPS FOR TALKING WITH INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Talk with your child

Give them chances to respond with coos, smiles, or a few words. Repeat their words back.

Read with your child

Read with fun voices, talk about pictures, and describe characters. Point out letters and new words.

Play with your child

Play together and talk about what you or your child are doing, such as clapping hands or rattling toys.

CONVERSATION TIPS

- Talk about what the characters did after reading a book together.
- Play “Peek-a-boo” as you dress your child, asking “Where are you?”
- Look at your child’s eyes to see what they are watching. Describe what they see.
- When you’re in the car or on a walk, talk about what you see, hear, and smell.
- Talk about the food as you feed your child. Describe how it tastes and feels.

OTHER READING ACTIVITIES

- Sing songs and play rhyming games.
- Go to storytime at the local library.
- Point to pictures and describe them as your read together.
- Share real-life stories that connect to the book.
- Sign up for free books through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio.



WEBSITE

[Department of Children and Youth: Early Literacy](#)

