

Learn How to Communicate With Your Child Even Before Birth! Suggestions from <HomeSpeechHome.com>

BEFORE BIRTH

Communication **begins even before a baby is born**. Just ask any expecting mother about communicating with their baby and they will tell you that they know how their baby is feeling by the baby's movements.

If that isn't communication...

...I don't know what is!

Make sure you **talk to your unborn baby** and even play him/her a little music. That's right, put those headphones on your belly!

AFTER BIRTH

Early communication skills develop very fast!

One week can make a huge difference in a child's abilities. I know because my daughter is just over 18 months and I have been trying not to play the **"baby comparison" game**.

You know you are playing it when you make friends with parents who have children the same age as yours and you just can't help but notice the differences.

You note areas where your child can do something better than another child and areas where your child isn't as good either.

I **caution** you on this because...

...it is not healthy for you or your child.

Every child is different.

Children learn new skills so quickly during the early years that even a

week difference is not comparable.

That being said, however, you need to **keep a good-eye** on the development of your child's speech and language milestones. Because your child is developing so fast, a couple of months delay, now, can turn into bigger problems later.

Early speech and language skills develop during:

3 MAIN STAGES

Pre-Linguistic Stage - Before Speech and Language	0-18 months
Emerging Language Stage - Speech and Language are Beginning	1 1/2 - 2 years
Developing Language Stage - Language is Still Developing	2-3 years

To provide the best opportunity during the stages of language development and to help you meet each milestone there are...

THINGS PARENTS SHOULD DO

1. TALK A LOT A child needs to hear a word at least **100** times before he/she can begin to say it! So whatever words you want your child to say, you need to say them a lot. In other words, talk to your child everywhere!
2. Talk when you are **eating**.
3. Talk when you are **cooking**.
4. Talk when you are **cleaning**.
5. Talk when you are **driving**.
6. Talk when you are **shopping**.

7. For those of you who are kind of on the quiet side, I know this is going to be tough but your child's stages of language development depend on it. The **more you do it**, the **more natural** it becomes. Sometimes I catch myself when I haven't talked to my daughter for an hour because I was completely consumed in a thought or task. Talking is **absolutely** the **BEST** thing you can for your child's speech and language.
8. FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S LEAD This **does not** mean let your child get his/her way. It **does** mean, when you and your child are interacting, playing, or learning...
...**do** what they want to do...

...and...

...**be interested** in what they are interested in.