Talk Spot

Infants begin to participate in conversations long before they are able to speak. Talking to them as part of their daily routine is one of the best ways to encourage early language development. Parents can do this by creating a **Talk Spot**.

A **Talk Spot** is anywhere you can communicate face-to-face with your infant. This could be in the car, in the park, at bedtime: anywhere you can be together without the distraction of a screen. Find yours, use yours, and set baby up for learning success.

Learn more at **speechandhearingbc.ca**.

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Infants begin developing language skills at birth. By listening to their parents, caretakers, and the people around them, they pick up an extraordinary amount of information, including vocabulary, non-verbal cues and grammar.

How can you have a Talk Spot with your baby?

One of the easiest ways to communicate with your baby is to talk about what is happening around you. Whether you are changing their clothes, moving to a new room, or strapping them into their car seat, explaining the world is a great way to help your baby become familiar with common words and phrases.

Other ways to engage your baby:

Connect words in baby's board book to things around you, especially by comparing colour, shape and numbers. These are some of the first words that your baby will learn and understand, and so make great anchor points for further learning.

Sing a lullaby or children's song slowly, engaging baby with hand gestures and exaggerated expressions. For complicated songs like the ABCs, tying the music to claps, bounces, or tickles can help baby learn how to anticipate the exciting part of a conversation.

Repeat or respond to baby's gurgles and mumbles. This will teach them that they are being listened to, and what it means to have a conversation.

Tracking baby's development

Every child develops at their own rate. If your child does not have all of the same skills as their peers, this is not an immediate cause for alarm. However, if you find that your baby's development seems stalled, or if your baby has had problems with multiple ear infections, it is worthwhile to reach out to a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist.

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) are registered, highly trained professionals who can can diagnose and treat disorders relating to poor hearing, language delay, speech impairments, reading difficulties or writing challenges.

Audiologists are also registered, trained professionals who specialize in diagnosing and treating hearing impairments. They can determine if problems with hearing or auditory processing are contributing to a child's difficulty with learning. Some services are government funded and available free of charge and others you will need to pay for.

You can find development milestones for babies and young children at **speechandhearingbc.ca**.