

Birth to
Five

RESOURCES—INFANTS AND TODDLERS

ARTICLES

Bardige, B. & Segal, M. (2004). Conversations in child care. *Zero to Three*, 25(1), 16–22. Retrieved from <http://main.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/conversations.pdf>

This article shares information about extending conversations with infants and toddlers through strategies such as asking questions, thinking aloud, using interesting vocabulary (rare words), helping children connect with each other, and creating settings for conversation and play.

Birckmayer, J., Kennedy, A., & Stonehouse, A. (2010). Sharing spoken language. Sounds, conversations, and told stories. *Young Children*, 65(1), 34–39. Retrieved from http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/naeyc/youngchildren_201001/#/36

This article emphasizes the importance of engaging infants and toddlers in conversations by observing and recognizing children's communications, talking and sharing stories, and encouraging them to tell stories themselves.

Hart, B. & Risley, T. R. (2003). The early catastrophe: The 30 million word gap by age 3. *American Educator*, 27(1). Retrieved from <http://www.aft.org/pdfs/americaneducator/spring2003/TheEarlyCatastrophe.pdf>

This article summarizes a longitudinal study on identifying features of children's early experiences in the home that contribute to later language and cognitive development. Findings showed large differences in the amount and quality of children's experiences with language and interactions by their third birthday, associated with families' socioeconomic levels.

WEB RESOURCES

Gardner-Neblett, N., & Gallagher, K. C. (2013). *More than baby talk: 10 ways to promote the language and communication skills of infants and toddlers*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute. http://fpg.unc.edu/sites/fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/reports-and-policy-briefs/FPG_BabyTalk_WEB_2013.pdf

This resource from the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute describes 10 practices that early childhood educators can use to foster language and communication skills among infants and toddlers. Each practice includes a description, research evidence that supports it, and examples of how educators may use the practice with infants and toddlers.

News You Can Use: Foundations of School Readiness: Language and Literacy

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/docs/nycu-school-readiness-language-literacy.pdf>

This resource, developed by the Early Head Start National Resource Center, describes the foundations of early language and literacy, and includes suggestions for ways adults can support early language and literacy with infants and toddlers.