



Baby Talk: Resources To Support The People Who Work With Infants and Toddlers

Issue No. 81 February 2018

Parent Cell Phone Use Can Halt a Child's Language Learning

Researchers at Temple University's Language Learning Lab found that children are less likely to learn a new word when a phone call interrupts the child's conversation with their parent. In their experiment, researchers asked parents to teach their child two words, but answer a cell phone call partway through teaching one of the words. The team's analysis showed that when parent-child conversations were interrupted, children did not learn the new word. To learn more about this research, check out this video interview with researcher Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Elfg0UWQVc>

Public Perceptions of Baby Brain Development: A National Survey of Voters

The rapid brain development in the critical first three years of life lays the foundation for future health, learning, and behavior. This research revealed what voters know about early brain development and the emotional development of young children ages zero to three. Bottom line: we have a great deal of work to do before this information can be common knowledge.

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2124-public-perceptions-of-baby-brain-development-a-national-survey-of-voters>

Empowering Parents and Caregivers

In Oakland, the Lotus Bloom Family Resource Center creates physical spaces and develops educational opportunities that enable adults (parents and other caregivers) and young children aged 0-5 to experience learning together. The goal of the center is to increase the school readiness of children prior to the beginning of kindergarten by connecting with families as early as possible. This video highlights the work the center performs in collaboration with the Oakland Unified School District and shares the benefits of the program for children and families. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBzEkwosDvI>

The Power of Touch is Important in the NICU

One in ten infants is born prematurely and spends an extended amount of time in the neonatal intensive care unit, or NICU, after birth. This video, in English and Spanish, highlights research that shows why a small gesture, like touching, can make a big difference and support the development of preemies.

<https://www.childtrends.org/videos/power-touch-important-nicu/>

12 Ways to Support Language Development with Infants and Toddlers

This short, sweet list may be helpful for families and caregivers.

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/support-language-development-infants-and-toddlers>

Why Becoming a Good Parent Begins in Infancy

The Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health recently released the issue brief, *Why Becoming a Good Parent Begins in Infancy: How Relationship Skills Are Developed Throughout the Life Course*. The brief offers a quick primer to family and community members, professionals and policymakers on how the availability and quality of personal relationships are vital to the emotional and developmental growth of a child.

https://www.lpfch.org/sites/default/files/field/publications/why_becoming_a_good_parent_begins_in_infancy.pdf

Baby Talk is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources. To join the listserv, send an email **with no message** to subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu

Highlighting indicates resources that are available in English and Spanish. Past issues are archived at

<http://fpg.unc.edu/resources/baby-talk-archive> To suggest resources, please contact Camille Catlett at

camille.catlett@unc.edu