

Language Development

S

STARTS at birth. **Talk** to your baby, toddler and pre-schooler as you go through the day. Use words to label objects, feelings, family events, behavior and daily activities.

P

PROVIDE language experiences rich in rhyme, repetition, fantasy, humor and exaggeration through books, songs, silly words, and made-up stories to spark your child's imagination.

E

ENCOURAGE your child to talk using open-ended sentences that require more than oneword answers. Be patient and listen to them – don't interrupt. Do not pressure them to speak to strangers.

A

ACCEPT children's mistakes with language as they express themselves. Don't worry about young children's grammar. Children learning more than one language will often switch back and forth from one language to the next as they speak. This is normal.

K

KNOW your child's non-verbal signals (facial expressions, eyes, body language) and use words to label those feelings such as, "You Look Sad".

CHILDREN'S BOOK:

- *Max's First Word* by Rosemary Wells
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Martin and Carle
- *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss

ADULT RESOURCES:

- *Toddler Play* by Dr. Wendy Masi
- *Building Healthy Minds* by Dr. Stanley Greenspan
- *Baby Signs* by Acredolo, Ph.D.
- *Sign with Your Baby* by Joseph Garcia

