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CD 10G

Activity: Supporting Children's Learning

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You are your child's first and most important teacher. From the moment they can hear your voice, your little one is learning to communicate. Within the first couple months of their life, they will begin to vocalize and ever try to mimic your vocalizations (132). Talking to your little one often helps them hear and recognize the rhythm and tone of speech. Responding to their vocalizations further encourages them to expand their vocal chops. As your little one grows, their vocal abilities expand. They begin to make more elaborate vocalizations at around 4-6 months of age (132). When you respond to these elaborate vocalizations, you teach them that speaking can elicit a response from others. Interestingly enough, babies that are around 10 months old can understand more words than they can use themselves (132). At this stage, reading to your little one and naming objects for them can help expand their understanding of the world around them. Your little one should begin using their first words at around 12-13 months of age, though they will often use partial words to express full thoughts (133). Celebrating your little one's use of language and repeating the words back to them will encourage them to continue to use that word and to learn new ones. Your little one's vocabulary will quadruple in size between the age of 1 and when they reach toddlerhood, going from around 50 words to around 200 (134). Playing with your little one, reading to them, singing to them, and describing the world to them will all help build this vocabulary. Every interaction between you and your little one helps build their understanding of language.