

Communication and Language Development: Overview

Teaching Tips:

- This pillar is slightly different than the previous three in that the modules are organized loosely by age: Early communication (birth-18 months), Verbal Development (18 months to 3 years), and Emergent Literacy (3- 5 years). Keep this mind as you share the information with parents and caregivers.
- It is important to understand what the parents you are teaching already know. For example, some parents may understand that talking with a baby right from birth is important while others may think that babies can't understand anything before they can talk.
- Help parents understand that the goals of this module are about building a relationship between parent and child, not a focus on learning to read.
- Use the key messages below as a focus for teaching this topic as well as a summary of the content.

Learning Objectives for Parents and Caregivers

After learning about communication and language development, parents and caregivers will be able to:

- 1) Understand why communication and language development is so important in the early years
- 2) Explain the research connection between literacy and lifelong success
- 3) Identify ways to foster and promote a child's communication, print awareness, and early reading skills

Key Messages for Parents and Caregivers

- 1) Communication is a social process that begins in infancy.
- 2) Children can communicate long before they are able to talk and use words to express themselves.
- 3) Children communicate in many ways.
- 4) Parents and caregivers play an important role in fostering their children's language and communication skills.
- 5) Language development occurs over time.

