



Baby Talk: Resources to Support the People Who Work with Infants and Toddlers

Issue No. 86 July 2018

Babies Make the Link Between Vocal and Facial Emotion

The ability of babies to differentiate emotional expressions appears to develop during their first six months. Researchers from the University of Geneva have just provided an initial answer to this question, measuring the ability of six-month-old babies to make a connection between a voice (expressing happiness or anger) and the emotional expression on a face (again, of happiness or anger). For the full text, visit

<https://www.unige.ch/communication/communiqués/en/2018/les-bebes-relient-lemotion-dune-voix-a-celle-dun-visage/>

Physical Developmental Delay: What to Look for

The American Academy of Pediatrics has updated its **Physical Development Delay** online interactive tool to assist caregivers and families of children ages 5 and under to address concerns about their child's physical development. The tool provides information about milestones in physical development, such as rolling over, sitting up, or walking, and is now available in

Spanish.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/MotorDelay/Pages/default.aspx> (English)

<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/motordelay/paginas/default.aspx> (Spanish)

Reading Aloud to Children Might Boost Their Social Skills

Research findings published in *Pediatrics* documents that infants and toddlers who were read to by family members had notable social-emotional skill advantages when they started school. Specifically, researchers found that reading aloud and pretend play may offset disruptive behaviors—such as hyperactivity and aggression—and improve attention. Read more at

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2018/04/05/peds.2017-3393>

Making Eye Contact with Infants Can Support Their Social Development

Singing, cuddling, and playing: they're all good ways to bond with a baby. However, a new study shows the most important part of communication may be how you look at each other. Researchers conducted two different experiments to determine if eye gaze mattered when an adult sang to an infant. They used EEG to measure brain activity and found when adults and babies looked directly at each other, their brain waves would sync up more than when the adult avoided eye contact. The babies also tried to communicate more often when adults made eye contact – implying that this small gesture could help develop social skills. To watch a video on this topic in English or Spanish and learn more, go to

<https://www.childtrends.org/videos/making-eye-contact-infants-can-support-social-development>

Songs and Rhymes that Build Readers

Songs that use movement or fingerplay, like The Itsy-Bitsy Spider, can be a great way to draw very young children to interact and follow a sequence. This site has videos of native speakers demonstrating interactive songs in English, French, Spanish, Amharic, Arabic, American Sign Language, Italian, Russian, and Viet. Check it out at <https://www.storyblocks.org/>

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

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