



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

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### Babies Know When You Imitate Them - and Like It

Six-month old infants recognize when adults imitate them, and perceive imitators as more friendly, according to a study from Lund University in Sweden. Babies looked and smiled longer at an adult who imitated them, as opposed to when the adult responded in other ways. Babies also approached them more, and engaged in imitating games. See more from videos and information at this website. <https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/article/watch-babies-know-when-you-imitate-them-and-like-it>

### Early Childhood Mental Health: Reasons for Concern and Ways to Help

Family members, caregivers, and educators are responsible for supporting young children to develop essential, healthy, social and emotional development. Yet, two recent surveys have revealed that many early childhood educators do not have the training or resources needed to support children whose behaviors they may find challenging. This article shares the findings from that research and reveals what educators need to know and be able to do to avoid negative consequences.

<https://www.ncsl.org/blog/2020/04/22/early-childhood-mental-health-reasons-for-concern-and-ways-to-help.aspx>

### How Do I Talk to Young Children about the Racial Injustices Happening Right Now?

This website offers options for starting or entering conversations with young children about racial injustices.

<https://massaimh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/talking-to-young-children-about-racial-injustice.pdf>

### Why Play Is Important

Check out this rich website with information and videos about the importance of play, different types of play, how play develops, and more. There are play ideas to encourage development that are organized by age (e.g., newborns and babies, toddlers, preschoolers, etc.). Dedicated sections address play and friendship for children with disabilities and play for children with autism spectrum disorders.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/play-learning/play-toddler-development/why-play-is-important>

### Reading and Playing = Good for Mothers and Children

Reading and playing with a child are more than fun activities. New research shows that participating in hands-on activities with young children might be a simple way to help foster better behavior. Read more or watch a video in English or Spanish at

<https://positiveparentingnews.org/news-reports/reading-and-playing-good-for-mom-and-kids/>

### Rocking and Rolling. Nurturing Infants and Toddlers with Diverse Language Experiences

Do you work with infants and toddlers whose family members speak languages other than English? This article highlights ways in which to support children who are dual language learners (DLL), the term used to refer to any young child who is learning two or more languages. It shares facts about the benefits of being a DLL, evidence-based practices for supporting very young DLLs, and thoughtful strategies for honoring the language and cultural traditions of each child's family.

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/may2020/rocking-and-rolling>

### BONUS: The Gifts Children Bring

I call short, engaging videos that pack a content punch as “gumdrops.” **PLEASE** make time to watch and share this gumdrop that uses the words and feelings of children to express the importance of incorporating the “gift” of their home language(s) and culture(s) in learning. <https://www.coxcampus.org/the-gift/>

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 or signature block to [subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu](mailto:subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu)

**Resources in Spanish are highlighted.** All or part of Baby Talk may be freely shared or copied. For more information, please contact Camille Catlett at [camille.catlett@unc.edu](mailto:camille.catlett@unc.edu)