



The Role of Language in Establishing a Foundation for Infant and Toddler Cognitive Development

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Routines and Activities to Use with Infants and Toddlers

Supporting Development and Learning

- Learn about themselves and others
- Learn about moving
- Learn about the world
- Learn about communication

Routines

- Hellos and Good-Byes
- Diapering and Toileting
- Eating and Mealtimes
- Sleeping and Nap Time
- Getting Dressed

Experiences/Activities

- Playing With Toys
- Imitating and Pretending
- Enjoying Stories and Books
- Connecting With Music and Movement
- Creating With Art
- Tasting and Preparing Food
- Exploring Sand and Water
- Going Outdoors

What Children Learn Through Meaningful Experiences with Picture Books

- Develop the skills of visual literacy
- Appreciate excellence in art and language
- Understand people, relationships, feelings, and motives
- Think more expansively about the real world and about imaginary ones
- Apply skills in all areas of the language arts—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—as well as in the arts in general
- Reflect on how real storytellers, writers, and artists work, and become inspired by them
- Interpret and evaluate literature in its many different forms
- Communicate more effectively by incorporating the content, vocabulary, and linguistic complexity found in literature
- Broaden their perspectives to view different cultures and individuals in less stereotypic ways
- Learn to select books that are suited to their reading levels and interests

(Mary Renck Jalongo, *Young Children and Picture Books*)

I Love You Rituals

(as found in Becky Bailey's *I Love You Rituals*, published by HarperCollins)

A Wonderful Woman

A wonderful woman lived in a shoe.
She had so many children
She knew exactly what to do.
She held them,
She rocked them,
And tucked them in bed.
"I love you, I love you,"
Is what she said.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
What a wonderful child you are!
With big bright eyes and nice round cheeks,
A talented person from head to feet.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
What a wonderful child you are!

Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet,
Eating her oatmeal today.
Along came a spider and sat down beside her,
And said, "Have a wonderful day!"

Round and Round the Garden

Round and round the garden
Goes the teddy bear.
One step, two step
Tickle under there.

S E A L

Stimulus (any sensory provocation)



Emotion (positive or negative)



Attention (positive emotions drive executive functions—negative emotions drive survival)



Learning (the response to the attentional variant)

(adapted from Robert Sylwester's *A Biological Brain in a Cultural Classroom*)