

Dads' chatter

- Talking to your baby will help him to talk. Always try to listen and respond when your child makes any sounds – even if it's a string of noises.
- Talking to your baby will help him/her to learn. Research shows that development of language is a crucial first step in a child's ability to think, learn and socialise, and has a significant impact on overall educational experience
- Most brain development occurs between birth and the age of two. As a baby absorbs new sights, textures, scents and sounds, the connections in her brain that make learning possible multiply and become stronger. If a baby does not use these connections, or does not use them enough, the connections are lost forever. The best way to stimulate and strengthen your baby's brain is to talk to her more.
- Talking to your baby will help him feel safe, secure and loved. Your baby will love hearing your voice and will respond to the warmth and love reflected



matters too!

- in your words as you talk to him. Children who are able to understand others and express their thoughts and feelings are more likely to have good relationships with other people and strong self-esteem.
- Talking to your baby will help you to bond with your child. Taking time to develop your child's language will be rewarding, both immediately and in the long term, because it lays a wonderful foundation for future learning.
 - Literacy begins with speaking and listening. 'Reading and writing', said educationalist James Britton, 'float on a sea of talk.' Good talkers and listeners are more likely to become good readers and writers.

(based on material from National Literacy Trust 'Talk to Your Baby' Campaign.)

