I love it
when you talk, read and play with me.

Talk
- Hold me when I cry. It helps me learn to trust.
- Talk, read and sing with me in any language. It's how I learn.
- Take care of yourself. It helps you take care of me.

Read
- Look at board books with colorful pictures. Let your baby hold the book and turn the pages. This builds a solid foundation for learning to read.
- Try Peek-a-boo with objects like a ball and blanket.
- Encourage baby to crawl or scoot to uncover the ball by saying, “What's under the blanket? It's the red ball!”

Play
- Repeat lullabies, songs with hand motions like The Itsy Bitsy Spider, and games like Pat-a-cake to help build language skills. Your baby loves the sound of your voice!

You are my first and most important teacher.

For more information in your neighborhood, contact:

www.talkreadplay.org

Talk, Read, Play is sponsored by:

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston
Children thrive
when you talk, read and play together.

Talk
- Describe what you are making for dinner. *It helps me build my language skills.*
- Help me look for letters on the train or bus, or while we take a walk. *It helps me develop strong observation skills.*
- Tell me about the story you just read. *It helps me appreciate reading.*
- Tell me (again) how much you love me. *It builds my self-esteem.*

- Tell a story about when you or your parents were little. When she hears you talk about what happened in your life, she is learning new words. Your stories make her appreciate stories, and that makes her want to learn more.

- Have your child draw a picture. Then have him tell you about the picture while you write down what he says. Read it back to him. Your child will enjoy hearing his story.

Read
- Play the Opposite Game with your child. When you say “up,” your child says “down.” Start with easy pairs and then try harder words.

Play

Anytime is a good time to talk.

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Talk, Read, Play is sponsored by:

- Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston
You are your child’s first and favorite plaything!

Talk

- Sing lots of songs with your child, such as Old MacDonald had a Farm, I’m a Little Tea Pot and Where is Thumbkin. Try changing the words to personalize the song.

- Play I Spy. Pick a letter from your child’s name and see if your child can find something shaped like that letter or find that letter on a sign. “Can you find the letter ‘S’?”

- Play Peek-a-boo with toys under blankets. It helps me to learn about concepts like texture, color, size and shape.

- Roll or toss a ball back and forth to me. It helps me develop balance and coordination.

- Play pretend and dress-up with me. It helps me learn about people and the world around me.

- Draw pictures with me. It helps me build the skills I need to hold a pencil.

Read

- Make up something your child could pretend to be and have him act it out. Let your imagination run wild. Some examples are: A tree moving in the breeze; A cat arching its back; A plane flying through the air.

Play

- Sing lots of songs with your child, such as Old MacDonald had a Farm, I’m a Little Tea Pot and Where is Thumbkin. Try changing the words to personalize the song.

I learn from you.

Take some time to play today.

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Let me explore books with all my senses—fingers, eyes and mouth! It helps me learn.

Talk to me about the pictures I see in a book.

Read to me with different kinds of expressions and tones of voice. It helps me to distinguish sounds.

Help my little hands hold books and turn the pages. It helps me build hand-eye coordination.

After reading a book several times, pause and let your child say some of the words or read them with you. Give hints by pointing at pictures.

Rhyming books such as Mother Goose or Dr. Seuss are fun for children. Play your own rhyming game by thinking up rhymes to common words. For example, think up words that rhyme with dime, time or lime.

After reading a book, ask your child what happened and encourage her to tell the story back to you in her own words. You can also ask your child to share her favorite part of the story with you.

After reading a book several times, pause and let your child say some of the words or read them with you. Give hints by pointing at pictures.

Rhyming books such as Mother Goose or Dr. Seuss are fun for children. Play your own rhyming game by thinking up rhymes to common words. For example, think up words that rhyme with dime, time or lime.

Read a book together every day.

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