

Talk With Me • Howard County



What is Talk With Me?

Talk With Me • Howard County is an initiative of the Howard County Public School System in partnership with our broader community. The program aims to help parents and caregivers understand the powerful brain-building that occurs during simple back and forth interactions with their children from the earliest moments of life, and to provide simple tools for these interactions. Through our website, resources, community trainings, and involvement of local organizations and businesses, our goal is to support healthy development of all of our children so that they build capacities for success in school and in life.



Tune in

Adjust



Listen

**Kiss and
cuddle**



Wait

Imitate



Take turns

Have fun



**Meaningful
moments**

Every day!



Resources

Talk With Me • Howard County

www.hcpss.org/talkwithme/

www.facebook.com/groups/talk-withmehoco/?ref=bookmarks

HCPSS Early Childhood (Birth-3)

www.hcpss.org/early-childhood/birth-three-years/

**Howard County
Launch Into Learning**
launchintolearninghc.org

ReadyRosie

www.readyrosie.com/register

HCPSS Early Intervention

www.hcpss.org/special-education/program-details/



Babies and toddlers who have parents talking with them are put on a path toward better development in school and in life.



Talk With Me • Howard County

Your baby's brain grows with every interaction you have together.

From the earliest moments when you repeat your baby's sounds back to her or tell him how much he is loved, your baby is making important connections. Children who have parents talking with them are put on a **path towards better development**.

We know that babies communicate for a reason. We know that responding to your baby's cries, needs, and preferences in a **positive** way teaches your baby to communicate. We also know that having a rich interactive relationship with your child lays a foundation for good mental health. Whether you speak in English, or in your heritage language, or in a combination of languages, all languages help your child to develop.

As you change your tone of voice and adjust your touch to soothe, stimulate, and hold your baby's attention, you begin a **conversation** that prepares your baby for lifelong learning.



Tune in

- Turn off your device and be present
- Watch for your child's cues and interests and observe what your child is doing



Wait

- It's important to give your child time to respond



Imitate

- Repeating your child's sounds, words, and actions, and letting them repeat after you is one of the most important tools for simple language learning



Adjust

- Adjust your responses to suit YOUR baby by varying your voice, behavior, language, and activity



Take turns

- Use simple sounds, babbling, words, and sentences, and take turns in conversation at every stage of your baby's life



Listen

- Listen to your baby's sounds and attempts to communicate
- Look for opportunities to start a conversation



Have fun

- Sing simple songs and rhymes
- Be silly, playful, and positive



Kiss and cuddle

- Communication is most powerful when you're face-to-face
- Remember: Touch is a silent language



Meaningful moments

- Talking can happen at ANY time of day
- Eating, bathing, car rides, shopping, waiting rooms, etc.



Every day!

- Every family, every child, every language, every day!



Launch Into Learning

An initiative supported by the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council