



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

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## The Genius of Babies

Curious what goes on inside a tiny human mind? They can't talk (yet), but babies know a lot more than you think. Click on the link below to discover five TED Talks, each of which explores the genius of babies from a different perspective.

[http://www.ted.com/playlists/289/the\\_genius\\_of\\_babies?utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=tedsread](http://www.ted.com/playlists/289/the_genius_of_babies?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=tedsread)

## Babies' Brains Learn Speech Months Before Their First Words

A baby might only be able to babble "mama" or "dada" in response to you now, but every time you talk to him or her you're planting the seeds that will eventually help them say those words on their own. A study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* shows that even though babies don't look like they understand speech, they're actually listening very carefully to everything they hear and trying to learn how to form language well before they even start speaking.

<http://www.whattoexpect.com/wom/pregnancy/0714/babies--brains-learn-speech-months-before-their-first-words--study-.aspx>

## Preparing Educators to Support Infants and Toddlers

What are the capabilities that distinguish an effective infant-toddler professional? Here are two studies with ideas.

- **Examining the Associations Between Infant/Toddler Workforce Preparation, Program Quality and Child Outcomes: A Review of the Research Evidence** (Research Brief OPRE 2016-15) - Discusses the available evidence on the associations between the preparation of infant/toddler teachers and caregivers, and improvements in quality and child outcomes. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/resource/examining-associations-between-infant-toddler-workforce-preparation-quality-child-outcomes-review-research-evidence>
- **Describing the Preparation and Ongoing Professional Development of the Infant/Toddler Workforce: An Analysis of the National Survey for Early Care and Education Data** (Research Brief OPRE 2016-16) - Explores some of the strengths and needs of the infant/toddler workforce in center-based as well as home-based early care and education programs. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/resource/describing-preparation-professional-development-infant-toddler-workforce>

## The Surprisingly Logical Minds of Babies

How do babies learn so much from so little so quickly? In a fun, experiment-filled talk, cognitive scientist Laura Schulz shows how our young ones make decisions with a surprisingly strong sense of logic, well before they can talk.

[http://www.ted.com/talks/laura\\_schulz\\_the\\_surprisingly\\_logical\\_minds\\_of\\_babies](http://www.ted.com/talks/laura_schulz_the_surprisingly_logical_minds_of_babies)

## Building Literacy with Lullabies: A Message from Two Grandmothers

Infants are not born wired to learn a certain language; rather, they acquire their vocabulary from what they hear. It would seem common sense, then, that the more words a young child is surrounded with, the more words they will learn to speak. A well-known research study found that low-income children, by the age of three, were exposed to 30 million fewer words than their more fortunate peers. Without doubt, this immense word gap places under-privileged children at a disadvantage before they even enter school. It also places a great responsibility on the adults who care for these children. <http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2016/building-literacy-with-lullabies>

Baby Talk is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features resources that are high quality, readily available and free. To join the listserv, send an email **with no message** to

[subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu](mailto:subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu) To suggest resources, please contact

Camille Catlett at [camille.catlett@unc.edu](mailto:camille.catlett@unc.edu)