

# Speaking and Listening

*Mengle Memorial Library*  
324 Main Street  
Brockway, PA 15824  
814-265-8245  
[menglelibrary.org](http://menglelibrary.org)

*Library hours are:*  
*Monday through Thursday ~ 10-7*  
*Friday and Saturday ~ 10-5*  
*(Summer Saturday hours ~ 10-2)*

This tip sheet lists some activities you can do with your child to help them develop good speaking and vocabulary skills.

Children who hear a wide variety of words from a young age generally do better in school than those who don't hear as many words.

*The Mengle Memorial Library has received grant funding to become a Family Place Library! This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, & the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, Governor.*

*Language activities for  
birth to two years*

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1-2-3

Grow with me



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# Speech and language activities for ages Birth to 2 Years



- Encourage your baby to make vowel-like and consonant-vowel sounds such as "ma," "da," and "ba."
- Reinforce attempts by maintaining eye contact, responding with speech, and imitating vocalizations using different patterns and emphasis. For example, raise the pitch of your voice to indicate a question.
- Imitate your baby's laughter and facial expressions.
- Introduce animal sounds to associate a sound with a specific meaning: "The doggie says woof-woof."
- Teach your baby to imitate your actions, including clapping your hands, throwing kisses, and playing finger games such as pat-a-cake, peek-a-boo, and the itsy-bitsy-spider.
- Talk as you bathe, feed, and dress your baby. Talk about what you are doing, where you are going, what you will do when you arrive, and who and what you will see.
- Identify colors.
- Count items.
- Use gestures such as waving goodbye to help convey meaning.
- Acknowledge the attempt to communicate.
- Expand on single words your baby uses: "Here is Mama. Mama loves you. Where is baby? Here is baby."
- Read to your child. Sometimes "reading" is simply describing the pictures in a book without following the written words. Choose books that are sturdy and have large colorful pictures that are not too detailed. Ask your child, "What's this?" and encourage naming and pointing to familiar objects in the book.