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Pierce County  
Library System

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## Fun Talking Ideas

### Babies

- Look at photographs of people in magazines or books. Point out the person's eyes, nose, ears, teeth, cheeks, mouth, lips, forehead, hair etc. Use the photograph to connect these words to the baby's own eyes, nose, ears, etc.
- Whisper to your baby as you change a diaper or feed her/him.
- Take your baby on a "texture walk". As you move about the room or the yard, touch different items and describe what they feel like.
- Put your baby's hand on your mouth as you make many different sounds. Gently put your hand on your baby's mouth and encourage them to make the same sounds.
- Look out a window together and point and name things that you see. What colors do you see? What is the weather outside? What is the temperature? What plants or animals do you see? Is it light or dim? Etc.
- Darken the room and shine a flashlight on different objects. Describe them to your baby. Talk about what they look like and what they do.
- When your baby points to things in the environment, name the item and try to make a comment about its color, its size, its function etc.
- Lift baby up and say, "Up!" Bring baby down and say, "Down!" Gently swing baby back and forth and say, "Left, right, left, right." Repeat adding other directional words: under, over, through, side to side, backward, forward, etc.

### Toddlers

- Look at photographs of family members. Talk about who they are, their names, where they live and perhaps something about them.
- Play Pack a Bag. Put an empty backpack or bag in front of you. Ask your child to bring items one at a time for you to pack. For example, "Please bring me your teddy" Thank you! Now, how about a blanket? Can you bring me a blanket to pack in this bag?"
- Play a game where you give your child simple directions to follow. For example, touch your nose, shake your head, stomp your feet, clap your hands, etc.
- Take a walk together and talk about what you see. If your child is very young, describe things that you see as you walk. Try to use a wide variety of words.
- As your child gets dressed, name the body part and the part of clothing into which it fits. For example, "Your arm goes into the sleeve of this shirt!" etc.
- Look in a mirror together and make faces that show different emotions. Ask your child to tell you what they think you may be feeling. Talk together about emotions and what they look like on the face. Name them and practice them together.



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### Preschoolers

- Look in the mirror together. Talk about what you see. How many ears, eyes, lips, cheeks, etc. What do they look like? What are the similarities and differences between your two faces? For younger children, name the parts of the face. Talk together about how feelings show on the face. Make different faces and have your child guess what emotion you are showing. Ask them what parts of the face displayed the feeling. For example, what does your mouth look like when you are happy? Etc.
- Look through a family photo album or family photos on a computer. Talk about the people in the photographs. Where and when were the photographs taken? Talk about a memory you have of the people or places.
- Think of your best friend from childhood. Tell your child about them: their name, what they looked like, what were the qualities that made them a best friend? Describe their family members. Talk about things you did together. You may use this to begin a discussion about friendship. What does it mean to be a good friend? What qualities do you look for in a friend?
- Take a walk in a park or in your neighborhood. Engage your child in a conversation about what you see. Talk together about different sorts of plants or different buildings. Point out addresses and why we have them.
- Check out a children's magazine from the Library and look over the illustrations or photographs and talk about them together. Talk about the advertising and why magazines have ads.
- Count the numbers on a non-digital clock. Talk to your child about how a clock works—minute hands, hour hands, second hands etc.
- Play "I Spy" with your child. Look around the room and silently choose an object. Give your child hints about what the object is and encourage them to guess. For example: Color-- "I spy something that's blue" -- or shape -- "I spy something that's square" -- or function -- "I spy something you use to write."
- Tell a story together. You say one sentence and encourage your child to continue the story with a sentence of their own. Keep the story going as long as the fun lasts.
- Show your child the items in your wallet. Talk about them together—why you have them, what they are used for, where you got them, etc.
- Ask your child to name as many extended family members as they can. (Or friends, or neighbors.)
- Have your child close her eyes and guess the sounds you make. Use household objects, such as rattling keys, jingling coins, tapping silverware, or whistling. Tap on a pot with a spoon, snap your fingers, or click your tongue.
- Talk about where your ancestors came from, and use a map to find the countries.
- Encourage your child to describe three things that happened to them today.