

Suggested Books

Talking on the Go: everyday activities to enhance speech and language development by Dorothy Dougherty and Diane Paul, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2007)

- This 34-page book is full of very practical tips for adults who want to facilitate the development of listening, understanding and speaking in children's first 5 years. Look for your child's age and find what children that age typically do, and how you can encourage communication development. Also available with companion CD so that you can print out activities. I've given this book/CD as a gift to friends who are new parents.

Partners in Speech, Language, and Hearing: a Guide for Parents and caregivers of Babies and Young Children, American Speech-Language Hearing Association (2007)

- A very brief (49 pp.) book in English and in Spanish that describes how children typically develop early language skills and offers practical suggestions for expanding language during everyday activities. This is not about making activities; it's about how to communicate with your child from birth to 3 years. It's a reader-friendly description of how your child learns to listen and talk during his/her first 3 years. Even parents with actual children will be able to find time to read this.

The New Language of Toys: Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Special Needs, by Sue Schwarz, Woodbine House (2004)

- This 262-page book describes language development from birth through 6 years of age. The author gives specific suggestions for teaching children with delayed language and makes recommendations at different ages and developmental levels. She provides a list of age-appropriate books at each level, along with activities and toys that may be appropriate. Discussion of specific vocabulary and cognitive (thinking skills) development is also discussed.

Teach Me How to Say it Right: Helping your child with articulation problems, by Dorothy Dougherty, New Harbinger Publications, Inc. (2005)

- This 158-page book specifically discusses early development of speech sounds (articulation) and language. The author discusses what is typical and what is not typical as children grow. You don't have to read the whole book; you can pick and choose what you're interested in. Chapter 7, 'Developing Phonological Awareness' is a good introduction to that topic, which you'll hear frequently from your child's teachers in the early grades.

Does My Child Have a Speech Problem? -Answers to parents' 50 top questions, by Katherine L. Martin, speech-language pathologist, Chicago Review Press (1997)

- Written in a question & answer format, the author responds to frequently asked questions, including, "What speech sounds will be easiest for my baby to produce?" and "When is speech therapy needed?" and, "My first child was an early talker, but my second child isn't talking yet. Should I be concerned?" and, "How can I improve language skills while reading to my child?" This 160-page book is a good one to thumb through, finding answers to specific questions.

Look Who's Talking! (How to Enhance Your Child's Language Development, Starting at Birth), by Laura Dyer, Meadowbrook Press (2004)

- This book, at 263 pages, is longer, but is another resource which you can scan and find a topic of interest. It covers the age range from birth to 7 years of age. Chapters address:
 - How to enhance language development
 - Factors in language development

- Some issues in language development
- Typical language development
- How to facilitate your child's language skills at each stage
- Pre-literacy
- Music and pretend play
- Learning two languages
- Use of gestures & signs

Talking From Infancy: How to Nurture and Cultivate Early Language Development, by William Fowler, Center for Early Learning and Child Care (1995)

- This 236-page book about infant language is based on the author's research, and can be dense reading. I recommend the chapters on where & how to talk with infants

From Lullabies to Literature: Stories in the Lives of Infants and Toddlers, by Jennifer Birckmayer, Anne Kennedy, and Anne Stonehouse, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), (2008)

- This 138-page book is one of an excellent series published by NAEYC, written for educators, caregivers and families of children from birth to 3 years. It has a clear discussion of emergent literacy or pre-literacy skills. The appendix includes a table of developmental milestones (from birth to 36 months), with specific suggestions for fostering literacy development at each level. Recommend for staff development for early childhood education programs. Each chapter includes "Discussion Starters" which are great for staff in-service/professional development. One chapter is devoted to how and why to build a story collection.
- For families (and everyone involved with children up to 3 years of age!) the authors do a wonderful job of explaining why it is critical to share stories and books with young children, and how to include this in daily routines, without creating yet another item on your "to do" list.

If Your Child Stutters: a guide for parents, the Stuttering Foundation publication no. 0011 (2008)

- I highly recommend any of the SFA's publications. This short (63 pages) book is extremely informative and presented in an easy to read format. This book will be helpful for families of preschoolers; it describes what stuttering looks and sounds like and points out risk factors for stuttering.

Young Children Who Stutter: information & support for parents, by J. Scott Yaruss, Ph.D. & Nina Reardon, National Stuttering Association, 2nd edition.

- This is a short book that I share with families who have concerns that their child might be stuttering, and wonder what to do. Excerpts are also available at the National Stuttering Association (NSA) website. Refer to my web links page for a direct link.

Demystifying Autism Spectrum Disorders: a guide to diagnosis for parents & professionals, by Carolyn Thorwarth Bruey, Ph.D., Woodbine House (2004)

- This 241-page book is part of Woodbine House's 'Topics in Autism' series. The author discusses in clear language what autism can look like, and what characteristics are potential red flags. She talks about many myths commonly shared about autism, and explains why they are, in fact, myths. Case studies for children with different autism spectrum disorders are briefly presented.

Children with Autism: a Parents' Guide, by Michael D. Powers, Psy.D. Woodbine House (1989)

- This is another in the Woodbine House 'Topics in Autism' series. Families have found it validating to read accounts by other parents.

Teaching Conversation to Children with Autism: scripts and script fading, by Lynn E. McClannahan & Patricia J. Krantz, Woodbine House (2005)

- This 160-page book is packed with information (details!) about teaching functional language to young children with autism. I recommend sharing it with families and service providers of preschool children with autism spectrum disorders.

Toddlers and Parents: a declaration of Independence, by T. Berry Brazelton, M.D., Dell Publishing (1989)

- An oldie but a goodie -the author, a developmental pediatrician, describes the inner workings of children from birth to 3 years, and discusses how this affects their relationships with their parents. This is the book I share with families of children under 3 who ask, "What is going on here?" Brazelton talks about everyday issues, including: single parenting; sibling rivalry; birth order; how to deal with, "NO!" and with high activity levels. In this 249-page reference book, you can find your child's age level and/or your area of interest (e.g., the 'demanding child') and read the corresponding chapter(s).

Early Communication Skills for Children with Down Syndrome: a guide for parents & professionals, by Libby Kumin, PhD., CCC-SLP, Woodbine House (2003)

- A comprehensive (368 pages) discussion of speech and language development in children with Down Syndrome, beginning with diagnosis and early intervention. Has some good info on ear infections, literacy development and early language development. Specific techniques for language expansion are provided.