



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

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How Well Does Your State Support Infants and Toddlers?

New research from Child Trends and Zero to Three finds that the state in which a child is born and spends the first three years of their life has a significant impact on their future health, well-being, and success. The *State of Babies Yearbook: 2019* compiles and examines more than 60 policies and indicators related to infant and toddler well-being to rank states by how effectively they support children during their first three years.

https://stateofbabies.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/State-of-Babies-Yearbook_national-profile_2.25.19.pdf (overview)

https://stateofbabies.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/State-of-Babies-Yearbook_2.25.19.pdf (entire Yearbook)

What a Difference a Dad Makes

Several recent studies have highlighted findings about fathers. To learn more you can:

- Read about the difference that the age of men at conception has on their child's social skills
<https://www.fatherly.com/health-science/fathers-age-effects-kids-social-skills/>
- Watch a video in English or Spanish about the importance of fathers being involved in their young children's lives
<https://www.childtrends.org/videos/why-paternal-involvement-matters>

Parents and Toddlers Interact More When Reading Paper Books vs E-Books

Reading with a child is a hugely important developmental activity as it helps youngsters learn new words, broadens their knowledge, and provides time to bond with loved ones. Researchers found parents and toddlers spoke more when interacting with a paper book than with a story on an electronic tablet. Parents used richer language when using print books compared with tablets, but parents were less responsive, and children were less engaged with their parents when reading e-books. Learn more at <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/143/4/e20182012>

Language Development in Young Children

This site has very practical information about how young children develop language and how interactions and play can promote that development. <https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/development/language-development/language-development-0-8>

Mapping Newborn Baby Brains

A new process for mapping the brains of newborn babies is enabling researchers to study both typical brain development and neurological disorders. Using noninvasive, 20-minute magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, researchers have revealed some of the complex and precisely organized brain architecture that emerges as the brain reshapes itself during the third trimester of pregnancy. Read more to learn how this process may aid in the early detection of autism.

<https://www.chop.edu/news/mapping-brain-circuits-newborns-may-aid-early-detection-autism>

Grandparents Are Getting the Job Done

Millions of children are being raised solely by their grandparents, with numbers continuing to climb as the opioid crisis and other factors disrupt families. New research shows that caregivers who step up to raise their grandchildren are overcoming unique challenges to manage just as well as biological and adoptive parent caregivers. Read more at <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/Grandparents-Raising-Their-Childrens-Children-They-Get-the-Job-Done.aspx>

Baby Talk is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources. Resources **highlighted in yellow** are available in English and Spanish. To join the listserv, send an email **with no message** to subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu

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