

# talking

1. Noun \_\_\_\_\_
2. Noun - Plural \_\_\_\_\_
3. Adjective \_\_\_\_\_
4. Verb - Present Tense \_\_\_\_\_
5. Noun - Plural \_\_\_\_\_
6. Pronoun \_\_\_\_\_
7. Proper Noun \_\_\_\_\_
8. Noun \_\_\_\_\_
9. Verb \_\_\_\_\_
10. Noun \_\_\_\_\_
11. Noun \_\_\_\_\_
12. Noun \_\_\_\_\_
13. Noun - Plural \_\_\_\_\_
14. Noun - Plural \_\_\_\_\_
15. Noun \_\_\_\_\_

# talking

For babies, learning to talk is a two-way \_\_\_\_\_: You talk, he mimics you (or at least mimics the \_\_\_\_\_ he hears), and you continue the "conversation." But is there a right way to talk to your baby? "Parentese" -- that high-pitched, singsong way of speaking -- comes easily to some parents, while others may feel a \_\_\_\_\_ self-conscious. The good news? As long as you're \_\_\_\_\_, your baby is listening. So no matter how you engage your little one (whether it's "Whose cute itty-bitty toes are these?" or "Look at these cute \_\_\_\_\_!"), your baby will benefit.

Of course, his verbal ability will develop more quickly if you make a conscious effort to \_\_\_\_\_ to him even when he's a newborn (even though it'll seem as if you're talking to yourself!). So, for example, if you're taking your baby to your parents' house, you could say, "Do you know where we're going? To \_\_\_\_\_" \_\_\_\_\_ house! Let's bring your \_\_\_\_\_ to Grandma's!" This will help you get into the habit of talking to your little one, even if he can't \_\_\_\_\_ everything (at first!).

In fact, any conversation -- between you and your partner, even your end of a cell-phone chat -- can serve as an impromptu language lesson for baby. He'll pick up almost as much from secondhand dialogue as he will when he's getting all your \_\_\_\_\_. But when you are talking to your baby, don't be afraid to give him a chance to answer -- even if it's a \_\_\_\_\_, giggle, \_\_\_\_\_, or sigh rather than words. Studies show that babies whose parents talk with them rather than at them learn to talk earlier.

Need more ideas for kicking off baby conversation? Let your imagination run free. Tell your little one stories from your childhood, give him some guided tours as you go on your \_\_\_\_\_ Noun - Plural (even if it's just to the kitchen to get a snack), give him a blow-by-blow of your favorite \_\_\_\_\_ Noun - Plural. Just keep chatting, commenting on things around you, and asking questions, and one day your \_\_\_\_\_ Noun will surprise you by answering!