We’re Wild for Words
Vocabulary
Knowing the names of things—of things, concepts, feelings, and ideas

What You Do, What You Might See

You and Your Baby:
☐ When I talk to my baby, I use parentese—a higher pitch, short simple sentences, long vowel sounds.
☐ When I use lots of different facial expressions with my baby, I notice that my baby will listen to me longer. I know my baby learns more from my talking with her than from watching TV or DVDs.
☐ Even when I speak to my baby in parentese, I am using big words.
☐ I “narrate my day” to my baby, saying what I am doing as I do it or saying what my baby is doing as she/he does things.
☐ I say nursery rhymes and do some actions as I say them (like Hickory Dickory Dock), because that is one way my baby learns new words.
☐ I share books with my baby, talking about the pictures.
☐ When I read books with my baby, I use big words, the ones in the book and words I add.
☐ If I am reading a magazine, a newspaper, or book myself, I read some of it aloud to my baby.
☐ When I talk with my baby, I notice how my baby reacts, with different expressions in his eyes and face.
☐ Even if I get tired of singing songs, saying nursery rhymes, and reading books over and over again, I still do it because it helps my baby learn.
☐ I visit the library with my baby.
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What You Do/ What You Might See

You and Your Toddler

☐ I “narrate my day” to my toddler, saying what I am doing as I do it or saying what my child is doing as she/he does things.

☐ I try to find ways to encourage my toddler rather than just saying “no” by offering choices, explaining reasons, talking about feelings, and using words for self-control, like wait or gently.

☐ The more I repeat a nursery rhyme and do some actions (like Hickory Dickory Dock), my toddler tries to say the words.

☐ The more I sing with my toddler, the more my toddler is remembering and able to sing the song (even if I cannot understand all his/her words).

☐ As I talk with my toddler, I use words my toddler does not understand yet. I know my toddler learns more from my talking with her than from watching TV or DVDs.

☐ When my toddler talks to me, I repeat what she says and then add some more words.

☐ Even if my toddler doesn’t understand, that doesn’t stop me—I explain what words mean or talk about what’s going on around us.

☐ When I read books with my toddler, I ask questions and add more words.

☐ When I read books with my toddler, I add words that she doesn’t know.

☐ I read some factual books with my toddler.

☐ Even if I get tired of singing songs, saying nursery rhymes, and reading books over and over again, I still do it because it helps my toddler learn more.