

# Talk With Me • Howard County



## What is Talk With Me?

Talk With Me • Howard County is an initiative of the Howard County Public School System in partnership with our broader community. The program aims to help parents and caregivers understand the powerful brain-building that occurs during simple back and forth interactions with their children from the earliest moments of life, and to provide simple tools for these interactions. Through our website, resources, community trainings, and involvement of local organizations and businesses, our goal is to support healthy development of all of our children so that they build capacities for success in school and in life.



**Tune in**

**Adjust**



**Listen**

**Kiss and  
cuddle**



**Wait**

**Imitate**



**Take turns**

**Have fun**



**Meaningful  
moments**

**Every day!**



## Resources

### Talk With Me • Howard County

[www.hcpss.org/talkwithme/](http://www.hcpss.org/talkwithme/)

[www.facebook.com/groups/talk-withmehoco/?ref=bookmarks](https://www.facebook.com/groups/talk-withmehoco/?ref=bookmarks)

### HCPSS Early Childhood (Birth-3)

[www.hcpss.org/early-childhood/birth-three-years/](http://www.hcpss.org/early-childhood/birth-three-years/)

**Howard County  
Launch Into Learning**  
[launchintolearninghc.org](http://launchintolearninghc.org)

### ReadyRosie

[www.readyrosie.com/register](http://www.readyrosie.com/register)

### HCPSS Early Intervention

[www.hcpss.org/special-education/program-details/](http://www.hcpss.org/special-education/program-details/)



*Babies and toddlers who have parents talking with them are put on a path toward better development in school and in life.*



# Talk With Me • Howard County

***Your baby's brain grows with every interaction you have together.***

From the earliest moments when you repeat your baby's sounds back to her or tell him how much he is loved, your baby is making important connections. Children who have parents talking with them are put on a **path towards better development**.

We know that babies communicate for a reason. We know that responding to your baby's cries, needs, and preferences in a **positive** way teaches your baby to communicate. We also know that having a rich interactive relationship with your child lays a foundation for good mental health. Whether you speak in English, or in your heritage language, or in a combination of languages, all languages help your child to develop.

As you change your tone of voice and adjust your touch to soothe, stimulate, and hold your baby's attention, you begin a **conversation** that prepares your baby for lifelong learning.



## **Tune in**

- Turn off your device and be present
- Watch for your child's cues and interests and observe what your child is doing



## **Wait**

- It's important to give your child time to respond



## **Imitate**

- Repeating your child's sounds, words, and actions, and letting them repeat after you is one of the most important tools for simple language learning



## **Adjust**

- Adjust your responses to suit YOUR baby by varying your voice, behavior, language, and activity



## **Take turns**

- Use simple sounds, babbling, words, and sentences, and take turns in conversation at every stage of your baby's life



## **Listen**

- Listen to your baby's sounds and attempts to communicate
- Look for opportunities to start a conversation



## **Have fun**

- Sing simple songs and rhymes
- Be silly, playful, and positive



## **Kiss and cuddle**

- Communication is most powerful when you're face-to-face
- Remember: Touch is a silent language



## **Meaningful moments**

- Talking can happen at ANY time of day
- Eating, bathing, car rides, shopping, waiting rooms, etc.



## **Every day!**

- Every family, every child, every language, every day!



# **Launch Into Learning**

An initiative supported by the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council