**Top Language Enrichment Activities for Babies:**

Look at black/white & colorful picture books and point and name objects.

Sing to them.

Point to things and name the item.

Teach Top 10 Signs for functional communication.

Help them learn nodding, pointing, and gesturing is communicating.

Label how they feel.

Talk, Talk, Talk!

***Red Flags in the area of Language Development:*** What if they aren't engaging in joint attention, seem out of sorts, unable to self soothe?

**Top Language Enrichment Activities for Ones:**

Look at colorful picture books and ask them to "Touch \_\_\_\_."

Sing to them and make hand motions while hand over hand demonstrating motions.

Point and ask, "What's that?"

Teach Top 20 Signs for functional Communication.

Encourage imitation of signs, gestures, and actions with objects.

Help them learn more vocabulary. (Clothes, food, animals and toys)

Help them learn to use their words when they are frustrated. (Help, please, mine, more, please)

Talk in two-to-three-word phrases to model the next phase of expressive language.

***Red Flags in the area of Language Development:*** limited eye contact, solitary play, looking through you, no ability to point or seek help when distressed.

**Top Language Enrichment Activities for Two's:**

Read colorful concrete picture books. Point and ask, "What's that?"

Sing with them expecting them to know some of the words and be engaged in doing the hand motions or following some directions.

Expect them to use words to communicate, put two-word phrases together and have a vocabulary of 50 words.

Help them see how things are the same/different by sorting objects, toys, food, etc.

Notice what they are doing and help them begin learning the functions of objects and action words.

Talk in three-to-four-word sentences to model the next phase of expressive language.

***Red Flags in the area of Language Development:*** Vocabulary less than 25 words, appears to not hear others or loud sounds, regression in language, interested in turning pages of the book but not engaging in the book.

**Top Language Enrichment Activities for Three's:**

Read colorful books with them and ask, "What do you do with a \_\_\_?" "Where is the \_\_\_\_\_?" "How many \_\_\_\_ do you see?" (Between 3-5)

Sing songs that have directions, concepts, and questions infused into the songs. Hokey Pokey, Cha Cha Slide, do you like Spaghetti Yogurt?

Expect them to use complete sentences with three to four words, use adjectives and present progressive tense.

Teach them to follow two step directions. Expand this by including directions that include before. (Before you touch the floor, jump 2 times.)

As they are given opportunities to draw, and color ask them to tell you about their picture and write descriptions on their page, so they see writing.

Talk in four-to-five-word sentences to model the next phase of expressive language.

***Red Flags in the area of Language Development:*** Scripted speech, inability to make a choice, echolalia, nonverbal, unintelligible speech.

**Top Language Enrichment Activities for Four’s and Five’s:**

Read books with more developed story lines and ask, “When did the main character \_\_\_\_?” or “Why did the main character need a band aid?” or “Why should he/she feel scared or happy?”

Sing songs that have more complex motions or moves.

Expect them to use grammatically correct sentences with 4-5 words using adjectives, past tense and prepositions.

Encourage phonemic awareness skills that get them ready to read such as: blending compound words to make a new word (birth and day, put it together and it’s birthday) or hearing rhyming words through nursery rhymes and songs, independently naming a word that rhymes with bat, sit, cup, etc.

Help them see and read environmental print such as: their friends names on cubbies, restaurant names, favorite foods, snacks, and cereal.

Talk in 6-7 word sentences and model conversational skills.

*Red Flags in the area of Language Development:* limited vocabulary, limited words used to comment, conversate or request help, stuck in crying or throwing tantrums to get help or attention, unintelligible speech, slow to learn letters of the alphabet, shapes or colors

**Use this area for other Language Development Ideas Shared by your Peers:**