

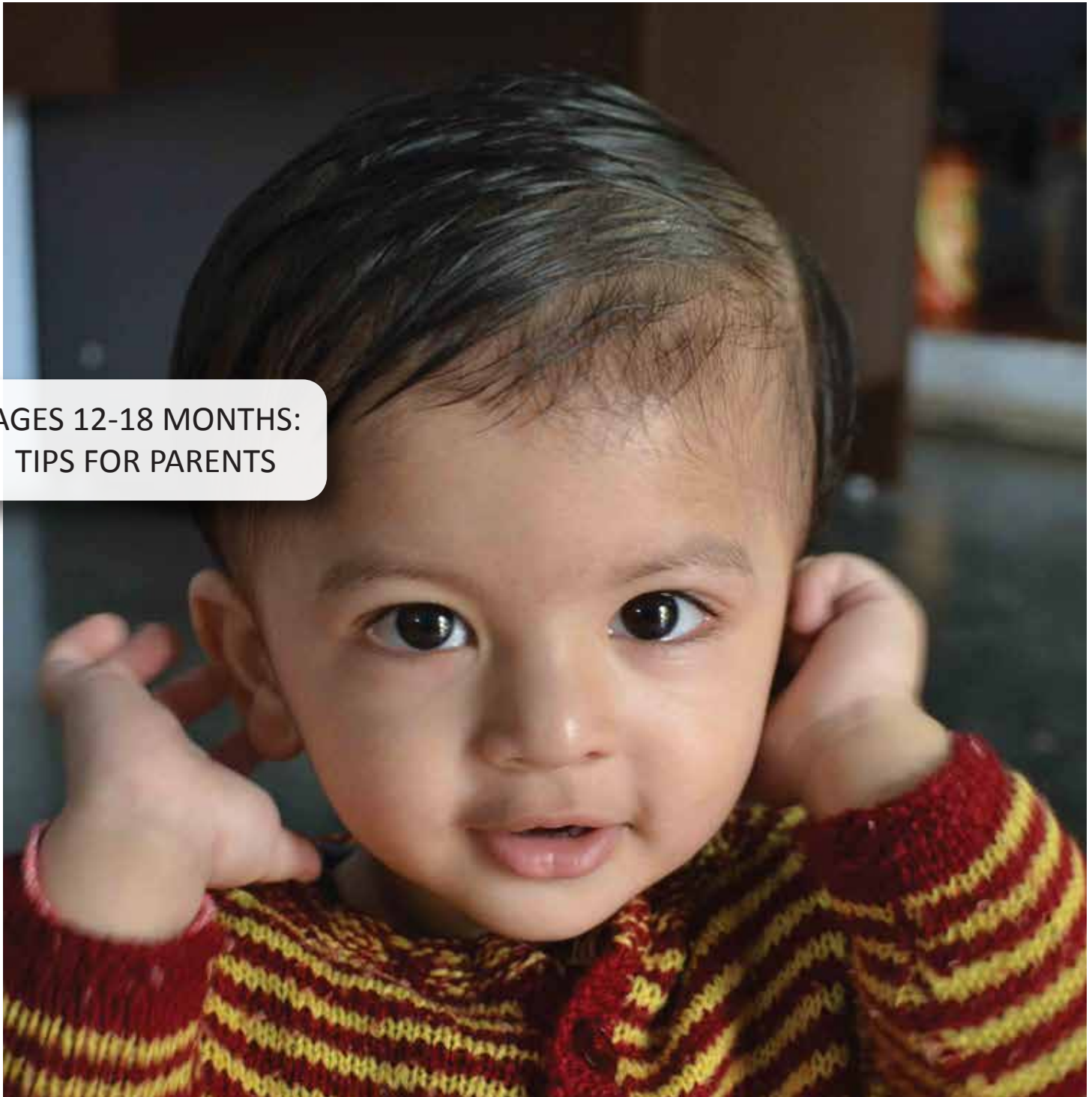
grow your kids

TREE Talk Read Engage Encourage



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AGES 12-18 MONTHS:
TIPS FOR PARENTS



Child Development

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AGES 12-18 MONTHS: YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT:

Motor: Walks and runs

Play and Learning: Babies learn that objects have function. Play is purposeful like stacking toys or sorting shapes

Communication: First words, jargon (sounds like a foreign language), understands language (follows simple directions, points to body parts)

Social Emotional: Separation anxiety- gets upset when you leave

Follow your baby's cues

Have fun, play, and create special time together. Your baby's development is stimulated by emotionally connecting with YOU!!!

Emotional nutrients to grow

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What do children need emotionally to grow?

They need to feel:

- loved and adored by consistent caregivers
- protected when scared
- comforted when upset
- and they need order and routine

They also need **seeds** for growth:



Talk
Read
Engage
Encourage

Activities with your child 12-18 months

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TALK

Talk and Communication: *“bathe your baby in language”*

Name and repeat the names of people and objects: *“that’s mommy”, “that’s a cup”*

Comment like a radio announcer: Watch your child closely and narrate what your child is doing. This may feel odd to you when you first try it and that’s ok. Say things like *“you are having fun putting the puzzle together”, “this truck is red and now you are moving it back and forth”*. This type of play is child centered and is a very powerful way for children to learn language

You can also play **instructional games**. Make it fun- don’t make it a drill:

Give directions to your child: *“please bring me the shoe”, “please give me the cup”*

Play **show me** games: *“show me the cat”, “touch your nose”, “find your shirt”*. Play these games in and outside of your home. Cheer for your baby and when he or she succeeds, say things like *“yes- that’s your nose”*

Sing songs and **finger play** together (*“itsy bitsy spider”, “this little piggy”*) and play **rhyming** games

Activities with your child 12-18 months

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READ

Read: Keep books around your home. Make trips to the library. Let your child choose the books. Read the same books over and over

Name and repeat the names of pictures: *"that is a dog"*

Comment: *"the boy in the story sees a flower"*. Read in an animated voice

Play **show me** games: *"show me the girl"*



Activities with your child 12-18 months

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Engage

Follow your child's cues

Motor: Legs: Encourage walking, going up and down steps, climbing and dancing- watch closely so that your baby does not fall and get hurt

Physical contact: Hug and kiss and hold and rock your baby (this won't spoil your baby). This is good for boys and girls

Play and Learning: Babies play with joy. Have fun together. Babies learn that objects have **function:** play "let's talk on the phone" "let's rock the baby doll" "let's play with the car". Babies **explore objects purposefully** and learn about their physical characteristics (shapes, size, colors). Babies love to play with stacking rings, blocks, simple puzzle shapes, musical toys, and pencils, crayons or felt tip markers to scribble

Social- Emotional: Separation anxiety (babies get upset when you leave). **Provide comfort and stay calm** when your baby is upset or scared. Play hide and seek and chase me games and allow your baby to explore the environment and then return to you



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Encourage

*Be your baby's
cheerleader!!!*



SAY:

"I know you can!!"

"Yes!!"

"I knew you could!!"