

# TREEHOUSE KEY PARENT TEACHING POINTS

TALK READ ENGAGE ENCOURAGE

(Have Fun Together!!!)

**TALK AND COMMUNICATION:** (*vocalization/ pre -verbal gestures/ verbalization (receptive>expressive language)*)

## **All Ages:**

Use every day experiences for talking while cooking, eating, cleaning, shopping, driving, diaper changes and bathing

Comment like a *sports announcer*: “this truck is red and now you are moving it back and forth” starting with infants

## **Young Infants:**

Speak in “parentese” (making high pitch sounds to engage the infant)

## **Older Infants:**

Use *gestures* like “hi”, “bye” and “pick me up”, pointing, and signing  
*Name* people and *label* objects

## **Young Toddlers:**

*Name* people and *label* objects

Encourage jargoning

Play “*show me*” games

### **Older Toddlers:**

Play “*tell me*” (“*what’s that?*”) games and “*fill in the blank*” games (“I like to play with \_\_\_\_\_”)

Ask your child questions

### **READ:**

#### **Young and older infants:**

Start *early* and read together regularly

Read in an *excited* manner/ use the time to *cuddle* together

Let *infants* handle books and turn pages – they may want to put the book in their mouth or read the same book over and over

*Point out and name and label* objects in the book

It is not necessary to read all of the words but use the occasion to playfully point out pictures and keep it *interactive*

#### **Young Toddlers:**

*Name and label* objects in the book

Play “*show me*” games

#### **Older Toddlers:**

Play “*tell me*” games and “*fill in the blank*” games

Ask your child *questions* about what you are reading

## **ENGAGE:**

**Motor Skills:** (*Head to toe*)

**Young Infants:**

Tummy time

**ALL AGES:**

Get babies to grab, roll, crawl, cruise, walk or run *towards something interesting* that is just out of reach and play *chase me* games

**Play and Learning:** (*does “with” objects (mouthing)/ does “to” objects (experiments)/ objects have functionality/ imaginary play*)

**All Ages:**

Sing and dance together

Let your child take the lead

**Young Infants:**

Use safe objects that they can put in their *mouth* like pacifiers and rattles

**Older Infants:**

Let them examine, handle, drop, roll, and bang household objects such as balls, large blocks, cups, pots, spoons, etc.

## **Young Toddlers:**

Play with objects that have *function* such as blocks, stacking rings, Legos, puzzles, and crayons and toys that elicit cause and effect such as pop-up toys

## **Older Toddlers:**

Use objects that foster *imagination* such as stuffed animals, toy figures, dolls, puppets, cars, and dress ups

## **Social Emotional Engagement:**

### ***First Year:***

- *Attachment - social smile/laughing/ stranger anxiety*
- *Attunement/ Serve and Return/ "shared joy" (joint attention) Dance and Duet*

### ***Second year:***

- *Separation anxiety and exploration (refueling) / Autonomy*

## **ENCOURAGE:**

You can do it! Yeah! You did it!

Be your baby's cheerleader!!!

Praise *effort*: "You worked so *hard* on the drawing" vs. "You are the most amazing artist"

