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”