

Let's Connect! Early Communication and Signs for Babies

Program Overview:

- Week 1: Basic Tips and Intro to Signs
- Week 2: Connecting through Signs
- Week 3: Connecting through Music
- > Today : Connecting through Books

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Connecting through Books and Building early literacy skills

- Step 1. Wait to see what your child interested in
 - ▶ How might your baby show you?
- Step 2. Follow your child's lead with a comment or question
 - ▶ What kinds of comments are engaging for your child?
- Step 3. Repeat!
 - ▶ Repeat these steps during the first read
 - ▶ Repeat the same book lots of times – see how their interests change

What types of books?

- Board books – they're durable!
- Bright, colorful illustrations or photos
 - Interactive books with flaps, etc. might get in the way of your connection
- Simple stories with repeating lines
 - Adapt the book depending on your child's interest.
 - Connect the book with gestures and songs
- Some good examples:
 - *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
 - *Brown bear, Brown bear, what do you see?* By Bill Martin, JR
 - *Moo, Baa, La la la* by Sandra Boynton
 - Book versions of familiar songs, such as *The Wheels on the Bus* by Stephen Holmes

Program Overview

- Use daily routines to build **interaction, early sounds, signs, and words**
- Understanding comes before expression
- Every child develops differently but...
- If you have any concerns about your child's communication development, speak to your pediatrician about **Early Intervention Services** provided by Tompkins County Health Department

When you practice sounds, gestures, and words, use these basic strategies:

- Face-to-face
- Wait! Give a turn
- Repeat, repeat, repeat