



HELP YOUR CHILDREN GET READY TO READ BY TALKING!



**TRY THIS
AT HOME**

Talking with your child will help them learn new words and the sounds that make up words.

If your child has not started talking yet:

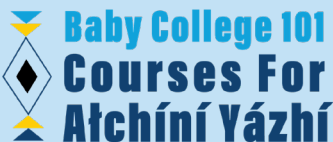
- o Talk about the objects your child looks at or reaches for.
- o Smile at them when they smile.
- o Make eye contact.
- o If your child babbles at you, babble back by copying the sounds they make or making new sounds. See how many times you can go back and forth.
- o Show them something and tell them its name. "This is a fork. This is a book. It is blue!"
- o Sing to your child.

If your child has just started talking and can say a few words:

- o Describe what you are doing as you go about your day.
- o Ask your child to name the objects you use throughout the day.
- o Teach your child new words by saying the word, using it in a sentence, showing your child what it means, or asking them to repeat the word.
- o Pay attention to what your child is interested in. If they are interested in cars and trucks, teach them the words for different kinds of cars and trucks. If they are interested in animals, teach them the names for different animals.
- o Sing with your child. Find a song that includes the same word or phrase repeated many times and have your child sing that word or phrase.

If your child has been speaking for a while and can say whole sentences:

- o Have a conversation. Ask your child questions, wait for them to reply, listen to what they say and say something back. Keep going until they show you they are ready to move on.
- o Talk with your child throughout the day: during meals, while waiting in lines, while doing errands, while driving, whenever you are together!
- o Sing with your child. Ask them to teach you their favorite song.



Baby College 101: Courses for Atłhíńí Yázhí

This program provides free early literacy materials, activities, and events to Navajo families with children ages 0 – 6. Learn more: <https://extension.arizona.edu/NavajoBabyCollege> or email DineBabyCollege@arizona.edu

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