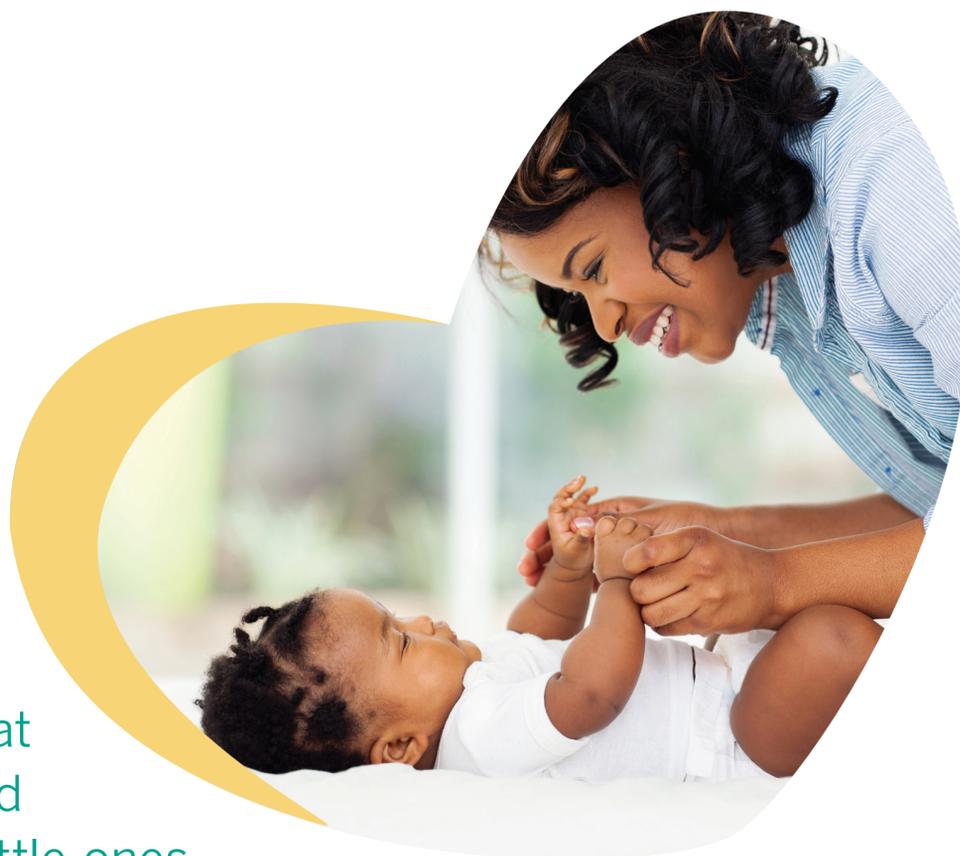




# USE YOUR WORDS

Your Baby is Listening and Learning



In Allegheny County, we want every child to have a bright future. And research tells us that those futures have a great start if parents and caregivers simply talk, face-to-face, to their little ones.

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

In addition to reading and singing to your baby, talk to them about everyday things, such as ...

"Good morning my little one!"



"It is a sunny day and the sky is blue ..."

"Today we are going to the zoo — there are so many animals to see ..."



"Your big brother is home from school — let's find out about his day ..."



"I'm making lasagna for dinner. First I need to preheat the oven ..."

"It's time for your bath ..."



"Let's pick a new book to read tonight ..."



"Good night my darling!"



## WHY TALKING WORKS:

Children learn to talk, read, and write through social experiences. The more words and conversation your baby hears from you, family members, and caregivers, the better his communication will be when he starts using his own words.

## THE FAMILY CONVERSATION:

What you're talking about matters less than the fact that you're simply speaking: Introduce a subject and encourage everyone to chime in, from your teen to your toddler.

Content for the Use Your Words campaign is sourced from the following:

The University of Kansas – *Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children*. Brookes Publishing: Boston MA. Betty Hart and Todd R. Risley, authors  
ZERO TO THREE  
The National Literacy Trust (UK)

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services is responsible for providing and administering publicly funded human services to county residents. Visit [www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs)

For more information about Use Your Words, visit [WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US/DHS/USE-YOUR-WORDS.ASPX](http://WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US/DHS/USE-YOUR-WORDS.ASPX)

