

# TEN TOP TIPS FOR TALKING WITH BABIES

Here are some really simple things that you can do to support the development of your baby's speech, language and communication skills, from before they're born to 2 years.

**1** I start to learn even before I am born and can hear your heartbeat, and from 23 weeks I can hear sounds outside your body.

**2** Hearing your voice when you talk, read or sing helps me to recognise you when I am born. This builds a bond between us which makes me feel safe and secure. I can even recognise the voices of other special people.

**3** I even love to listen to your favourite piece of music regularly; this can sooth me when I am born.

**4** Gently touch or rub your tummy, when you are talking to me, it's a great way for us both to relax.

**5** I will find your voice calming as soon as I am born because I already know it.

**6** Talk to me in our home language. This is the language you know best and the one you feel most confident using.

**7** I love it when you are close to me and I can see your face.

**8** Stroke me, talk gently to me and wait for me to respond. Sometimes I will make little sounds or movements. Copy me, wait for me to respond and see what I do.

**9** Look me in the eye and talk to me all the time; I love to hear your voice! I start to learn rules about language as soon as I am born.

**10** I may not use words, but I am still communicating with you. Try to work out what I am telling you.



The Ten Tips for Babies are part of Greater Manchester work to give every child the best start in life.

Find out more at [greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](http://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

You can also find more tips, advice, activities and short films at [www.bbc.co.uk/tinyhappypeople](http://www.bbc.co.uk/tinyhappypeople)

