



Literacy Grab & Go Infants (0 - 1½-year-olds)

Activity Title: Gestures

Activity Purpose: Build your child’s vocabulary by using words along with the gestures and facial expressions.

Rationale

Gestures are a part of a child’s language and development. They help babies communicate before they have words. The more gestures a child has, the more they will be able to communicate their thoughts and feelings. Connecting words to the gestures exposes them to vocabulary they can use when they begin to talk.

Materials: none

Description of Activity:

1. Clapping, pointing, shaking your head, or waving goodbye are all ways to communicate.
2. Enhance your communication by adding words.
 - For example, when you child does something you want to praise, clap and describe your action as well as why you’re doing it. “Wow, you did a great job. I’m clapping to show you that I’m so excited and happy.”
 - Or as you point to something say, “That is _____” or “What is that? It is _____.”

Lagniappe: Gestures are part of interactions and communication and can be used anytime to connect with your child.