



KCCTO-KITS ITSN

April 2018

MISSION OF ITSN

The KCCTO-KITS ITSN team consists of professionals from a variety of educational and experiential backgrounds. As coaches and mentors, we strive to support you in your task of providing quality child care to infants and toddlers and their families.

ITSN Services

A tiered level of support to early childhood professionals across the State. Providers can access this support through

- Online courses/trainings
- Virtual Kits
- Community-based trainings
- On-site visits
- Short or long-term consultation
- Intensive technical assistance plans

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: APRIL ADAMS

April Adams is owner and operator of Adam's Angels in Abilene, KS. In October 2017, April decided she would like to specialize in infant and very young toddler care leading her to partner with the ITSN project. Currently, she has her Family Child Care CDA and is working toward her Level 1 Endorsement through the Kansas Association for Infant Mental Health. April's commitment to the field of early childhood has spanned 22 years thus far, beginning when she was 15 years-old helping her mom to open her own Family Child Care in 2007. Seeing the increased need for high quality infant and toddler care in and around Abilene, in November 2017, April and her husband Matthew increased the number of families they are able to serve by obtaining a group care license.

Together with her ITSN Specialist, April has set goals and action steps to enhance her program space and materials specifically for infants and toddlers. As part of her plan, April has received an infant soft climber, some musical instruments, and is eagerly awaiting a sand and water table for the infants and toddlers to use in a variety of activities. When asked what the biggest impact with the partnership with ITSN is, April replied, "The materials have allowed the infants and toddlers in care to have more opportunities for large and fine motor development. Having a specialist has provided great support for me to better care for all children in care. The resources are great for myself and my parents. Having the opportunity to attend the KAIMH conference will increase my knowledge of child development so I can better prepare the environment and activities to ensure the development of the whole child." The ITSN project is very excited to partner with April to enhance her current program space and materials, along with building her capacity in the area of infant toddler development.



"The greatest sign of success for a teacher...is to be able to say, the children are now working as if I did not exist".

Maria Montessori

Pop Quiz

Many babies 12-15 months old understand at least how many words?

Answer is revealed in the article along with a few tips to encourage language development in infants and toddlers.

Tips on Learning to Talk

Feb 25, 2016

This article gives a brief introduction to language development and includes age-appropriate activities for language-building for children birth to 3 years old.

Learning to talk is a process that starts at birth, when your baby experiences how voices can sound. By 2 years old, most babies have a large vocabulary and can put words together to express their needs and ideas. Let's see how this process unfolds and what you can do to encourage your baby's ability to communicate.

From Birth to 3 Months

Your baby listens to your voice. He coos and gurgles and tries to make the same sounds you make. You can help your baby learn how nice voices can be when you:

- Sing to your baby. You can do this even before he is born! Your baby will hear you.
- Talk to your baby. Talk to others when she is near. She won't understand the words but will like your voice and your smile. She will enjoy hearing and seeing other people, too.
- Plan for quiet time. Babies need time to babble and play quietly without TV or radio or other noises.

From 3 to 6 Months

Your baby is learning how people talk to each other. You help him become a "talker" when you:

- Hold your baby close so he will look in your eyes.
- Talk to him and smile.
- When your baby babbles, imitate the sounds.
- If he tries to make the same sound you do, say the word again.

From 6 to 9 Months

Your baby will play with sounds. Some of these sound like words, such as "baba" or "dada." Baby smiles on hearing a happy voice, and cries or looks unhappy on hearing an angry voice. You can help your baby understand words (even if she can't say them yet) when you:

- Play games like Peek-a-Boo or Pat-a-Cake. Help her move her hands along with the rhyme.

- Give her a toy and say something about it, like "Feel how fuzzy Teddy Bear is."
- Let her see herself in a mirror and ask, "Who's that?" If she doesn't respond, say her name.
- Ask your baby questions, like "Where's doggie?" If she doesn't answer, show her where.

From 9 to 12 Months

Your baby will begin to understand simple words. She stops to look at you if you say "no-no." If someone asks "Where's Mommy?" she will look for you. She will point, make sounds, and use her body to "tell" you what she wants. For example she may look up at you and lift her arms up to show you she "wants up." She may hand you a toy to let you know she wants to play. You can help your baby "talk" when you: Show her how to wave "bye-bye."

From 12 to 15 Months

Babies begin to use words. This includes using the same sounds consistently to identify an object, such as "baba" for bottle or "juju" for juice. Many babies have one or two words and understand 25 or more. He will give you a toy if you ask for it. Even without words, he can ask you for something—by pointing, reaching for it, or looking at it and babbling. You can help your child say the words he knows when you:

- Talk about the things you use, like "cup," "juice," "doll." Give your child time to name them.
- Ask your child questions about the pictures in books. Give your child time to name things in the picture.
- Smile or clap your hands when your child names the things that he sees. Say something about it. "You see the doggie. He's sooo big! Look at his tail wag."
- Talk about what your child wants most to talk about. Give him time to tell you all about it.
- Ask about things you do each day—"Which shirt will you pick today?" "Do you want milk or juice?"
- Build on what your child says. If he says "ball," you can say, "That's your big, red ball."
- Introduce pretend play with your child's favorite doll or toy animal. Include it in your conversations and your play. "Rover wants to play too. Can he roll the ball with us?"

From 15 to 18 Months

Your child will use more complex gestures to communicate with you and will continue to build her vocabulary. She may

take your hand, walk you to the bookshelf, point to a book and say “buk” to say, “I want to read a book with you.” You can help your child talk with you when you:

- Tell her “Show me your nose.” Then point to your nose. She will soon point to her nose. Do this with toes, fingers, ears, eyes, knees and so on.
- Hide a toy while she is watching. Help her find it and share in her delight.
- When he points at or gives you something, talk about the object with her. “You gave me the book. Thank you! Look at the picture of the baby rolling the ball.”

From 18 Months to 2 Years

Your baby will be able to follow directions and begin to put words together, such as “car go” or “want juice.” He will also begin to do pretend play which fosters language development. You can spur your child’s communication skills when you:

- Ask your child to help you. For example, ask him to put his cup on the table or to bring you his shoe.
- Teach your child simple songs and nursery rhymes. Read to your child. Ask him to point to and tell you what he sees.
- Encourage your child to talk to friends and family. He can tell them about a new toy.
- Engage your child in pretend play. You can talk on a play phone, feed the dolls, or have a party with the toy animals.

From 2 to 3 Years

Your child’s language skills will grow by leaps and bounds. He will string more words together to create simple sentences,

such as “Mommy go bye-bye.” He will be able to answer simple questions, such as “Where is your bear?” By 36 months he will be able to answer more complicated questions such as, “What do you do when you are hungry?” He will do more and more pretend play, acting out imaginary scenes such as going to work, fixing the toy car, taking care of his “family” (of dolls, animals).

You can help your child put all his new words together and teach him things that are important to know when you:

- Teach your child to say his or first and last name.
- Ask about the number, size, and shape of the things your child shows you.
- Ask open-ended questions that don’t have a “yes” or “no” answer. This helps them develop their own ideas and learn to express them. If it’s worms, you could say: “What fat, wiggly worms! How many are there?...Where are they going? Wait, watch and listen to the answer. You can suggest an answer if needed: “I see five. Are they going to the park or the store?”
- Ask your child to tell you the story that goes with a favorite book. “What happened to those three pigs?” Reading spurs language development. Take him to storytime at your local library. Your toddler will enjoy sharing books with you as well as peers.
- Do lots of pretend play. Acting out stories and role-playing create rich opportunities for using, and learning, language.
- Don’t forget what worked earlier. For example, your child still needs quiet time. This is not just for naps. Turn off the TV and radio and let your child enjoy quiet play, singing, and talking with you.

Zero to Three. (2016, February 25). Tips on Learning to Talk. Retrieved from <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/301-tips-on-learning-to-talk>.

ITSN SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT: CRISTINA HARGITT



Cristina is an ITSN specialist in the North East Central Kansas. Together with her team, she provides services and support to several Center-based and Family Child Care providers who are interested in increasing the quality of their child care programs. Cristina is a Fort Hays State alum with both a B.S. and M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology. She is a licensed speech-language pathologist who brings over 11 years of experience in early intervention to the ITSN team. Cristina lives in Wamego with her husband Ryan and two children, Celia who is 8-years-old and Mateo who is 10-months-old. Cristina is passionate about inclusion and helping providers support all children in their care. When asked what the best part of the infant toddler population is, she replied, “Watching lightbulbs come on...the children are learning something new every day and the adults that care for them are learning how to build connections that foster relationships and development.”

Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC)

The ECRC is designed to provide access to a continuously updated collection of materials in a wide variety of topics related to children birth to eight. Items are checked out of the Early Childhood Resource Center for a three-week period. Though there is no limit to the number of items a patron can check out, it is requested that a patron not check out more items than they can examine in a three-week period. The ECRC can be accessed through the below link.

<http://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/home.php>

Spotlight on ECRC Resources-Language Development

Below you will find resources that dive more deeply into this issue's featured topic of Language Development. Please check out these, and other resources, to help support your work with children.

Acredolo, L & Goodwyn, S. (2002). Baby Signs How to Talk with Your Baby Before Your Baby Can Talk. Contemporary Books.

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2011). Caring for Young Children. Elk Grove Village, IL. American Academy of Pediatrics.

Barbre, J. (2013). Activities for responsive caregiving: infants, toddlers, and twos. St. Paul, MN. Redleaf Press.

Schiller, P. (2003). The complete resource book for toddlers and twos: over 2000 experiences and ideas. Beltsville, Md. Gryphon House.

Schiller, P. (2005). The complete resource book for infants: over 700 experiences for children from birth to 18 months. Beltsville, Md. Gryphon House.

White, J. (2010). Babies outdoors: Play, learning & development. Newcastle upon Tyne, GB. Siren Film.

White, J. (2010). Toddlers: Play, learning & development. Newcastle upon Tyne, GB. Siren Film.

White, J. (2010). Two year olds: Play, learning & development. Newcastle upon Tyne, GB. Siren Film.

KCCTO Online Courses

To learn more about language development check a few of these online courses from KCCTO:

- Infant and Toddler Child Development
- Child Development: Connecting Development to Practice
- Basics of Child Development

Please visit the KCCTO website at kccto.org for full course descriptions and registration.

Upcoming Trainings

Building Your Early Childhood Toolkit

- Pittsburg, KS - April 9th from 6:30 – 8:30pm
- Great Bend, KS - April 28th from 9:00 – 11:00am
- State-wide, Online via Zoom – May 3rd from 6:30 – 8:30pm
- Hays, KS - June 9th from 9:00 – 11:00am
- Manhattan, KS - June 12th from 6:30 – 8:30pm

The toolkit trainings are all free and are approved for 2 KDHE clock hours. Please visit the following link to register for any of the above trainings. <http://kccto.org/building-your-early-childhood-toolkit-registration#overlay-context=registration>



INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION?

The topics, resources, and supports our team provides are matched to your individual needs. Contact the KCCTO office for the name of your area's ITSN specialist today! We are so excited to meet you, provide support, and answer any questions! Contact us at the phone number or email address below. Please also visit our websites!

Through a partnership with Kansas Childcare Training Opportunities (KCCTO) and Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS), the Infant Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) is providing support and education to impact child care quality across the state of Kansas.

KCCTO-KITS ITSN

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