

Make talking fun for your young child

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The April Conference of "CHILDREN - OUR INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE" was presented by the Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children. The following are some of the ideas I thought especially interesting.

We all want our infant to learn to speak, but sometimes it is very frustrating. If your infant has a lot of ear infections, chances are he/she won't be learning new words as quickly as he/she could. The infant needs to see a need to speak. If all he/she has to do is point or cry to get everything, why should he/she both-

er to say words? An infant needs to hear a word many, many times before he/she is able to say it back.

If the parents make it fun to talk, the chances are good the infant will continue to talk. Pointing and saying the name of something as your infant is looking at it is one good idea. After saying a word give your infant a minute to think about it, maybe he/she will try to say it - maybe not - it's okay. Just say the name again and point to something new. When your infant tries a word act excited, even if it doesn't sound much like the real word. Usually after a few more tries over a period of time the word will be clearer.

If you want your child to speak Inupiaq when he/she is big the best time to begin is now with your infant. The more your infant hears the Inupiaq words used all around him/her the faster the infant will start to use them. It is really up to you. If you're worried about your infant's development be sure to call P.I.P. at 852-3999. I am here to help.

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