



EDUCATION MATTERS

CHILDREN'S BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

- Brain development is the most significant from birth to age 3.
- The brain's capacity develops 90 percent before a child reaches age 5.¹

WITHOUT PROPER CULTIVATION, CHILDREN CAN LAG BEHIND!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Talk to your child during everyday routines. Changing a diaper, bathing, eating, and other daily activities can all become teachable moments.
- Provide a stimulating environment with opportunities for your baby to develop all of his or her senses—to look, hear, smell, touch, and taste.
- Hold and touch your baby often.
- Call objects by their names. Your child is developing a vocabulary even when he or she cannot speak yet.
- Sing songs and read to your child. Point to pictures and colors as you read. Ask your child questions about stories, and have your child retell them.
- Use appropriate words to describe present, past, and future events (today, tomorrow, before, after, and next).
- Encourage your child to sort and match objects during routine tasks. (Use a prompt such as "Where do the forks go?")
- Talk about the sequence of events; tell what comes next.
- Encourage your child to act out stories from books using his or her imagination and different voices for each character.
- Arrange trips to the library, zoo, and special events.²

U.S. Department of Education
Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
<http://www.ed.gov/edpartners>

¹Early Childhood Education Degrees, *The Milestones of Your Little Rocket Scientist's Development*, 2013, available at <http://www.early-childhood-education-degrees.com/milestones/>.

²Florida Department of Education. *Welcome to the World: An Overview of Your Growing Child*. (Tallahassee, Florida, 2013), available at www.fldoe.org.