### **CONVERSATION**

### **STARTERS**

### **babies**

while

DISCOVERING

together

“Look,

you just threw down your cup!””

**Acknowledges something without judgment.**



# “I wonder

# how you can reach your toy car.”

**Shows curiosity and a desire to learn more.**

“Tell me more.”
Pause several seconds.
Listen to baby’s babble.
Hmmm . . . That’s interesting.

**Encourages baby
to babble or communicate.**

while

 **CONVERSATION**

 **STARTERS**

 **babies**

READING

together

“What’s this?”

Following where baby is looking, point to an object in picture. Say the name of the object. Pause for baby to babble back.

**Helps baby understand and express new words.**

“How do you think this baby is feeling?

Point to picture of baby’s or characters’ face.

Pause. Offer a suggestion.

**Helps build empathy.**

“What do you think will happen next?”

“Look, here is a picture of a baby eating ice cream.” Pause. Add your ideas.

**Exposes baby to sequencing.**



**CONVERSATION STARTERS**

**babies**

while

PLAYING

together

“How are these two items

the same or different?”

Pause for baby to feel the items.

Allow time for baby to babble to you. Describe the items.

**Helps babies compare and contrast.**

“What else can you do with that?”

“You’re using a spoon to hang on the pot.
What else can you do with the spoon?

**Challenges babies to**

**think in new ways.**

“What can we do together?”

“Let’s play pat-a-cake together.”

**Encourages collaboration.**

while

**CONVERSATION STARTERS**

**babies**

EXPLORING

together

“Oh! Look at this!”

Let the baby hold the object.

Describe the object.

**Prompts children to**

**observe closely.**

“Let’s see what happens when

you drop this toy in the bath water.”

**Encourages children to consider**

**cause and effect.**

“I wonder what’s
going on here.”

“This shoe doesn’t fit because
it is made for the other foot.”

Share information.

**Provides babies with new information.**

REFLECTING

while

together

 **CONVERSATION**

 **STARTERS**

 **BABIES**



“Do you like how
this tastes?”

Watch baby’s expression as baby tries
a new food.

Pause for baby to react.

Express what baby may be feeling.

**Asks baby’s opinion.**

“What else

can you do?”

“You like to hold the ball.”
See if the child does anything differently.
If not, you might say, “Try rolling it.”

**Encourages children to**

**consider different options.**

“How are you feeling?”

From baby’s facial expressions and
body language, use words to reflect
how baby may be feeling.

**Focuses attention**

**on emotions.**