

CONVERSATION
STARTERS
BABIES

while

DISCOVERING

together

“Look,

you just threw down your cup!”

Acknowledges something
without judgment.

“Tell me
more.”

Pause several seconds.
Listen to baby’s babble.
Hmm . . . That’s interesting.

Encourages baby
to babble or communicate.

“I wonder

how you can reach your toy car.”

Shows curiosity and a desire to
learn more.

**CONVERSATION
STARTERS
BABIES**

while

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.



**CONVERSATION
STARTERS
BABIES**

while

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.



while

CONVERSATION
STARTERS
BABIES

REFLECTING

together



“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.



“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.**



“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.**



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