

## Gab and Go (1–12 months)

**Vroom Tip:** When you're getting ready to go out, talk about what you're doing and how your child might be feeling. Maybe you could say, "We're getting ready to go to the store. You're wriggling and have a smile on your face. You seem excited. Let's go and see what we find there." How do they respond? Follow their lead!

**Brainy Background:** When you talk about their world, your child learns to connect what they're doing with words. When you talk about their feelings, it helps them understand their emotions and who they are. Following their lead helps them learn best.

## Read the Signs (0–2 years)

**Vroom Tip:** Some days, there's no time to read a whole book. But we're surrounded by words that are ready for reading. So today, read every sign or billboard aloud to your child and talk to them about what each means.

**Brainy Background:** Doesn't matter if it's a book, a magazine, or a bus stop sign! It all counts. Reading to your child, anywhere and everywhere, helps them develop a rich, diverse vocabulary.

## Sights and Sounds (0–2 years)

**Vroom Tip:** Describe to your child what you see and how it sounds. A car engine makes a loud noise like "vroom vroom!" Make the same noise every time a car goes by. What other objects do you see and what sounds do they make? Create a sound journey!

**Brainy Background:** When your child looks for new objects and listens for the sounds they make, they're making connections between sights and sounds that help them learn to observe and listen more carefully, which are all key learning skills.

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Mississippi Thrive  
presents

Road Trip  
Vroom Tips™!

For birth–2 year olds



Thrive while you ride!

## Window Watchers (6 months–2 years)

**Vroom Tip:** Ask your child if they want to be a window watcher. Follow their gaze as you point out a window and chat about what you both see. Share where you're looking. Create names for what's out there and talk about what each thing does.

**Brainy Background:** Chatting back and forth about what each of you sees makes this a fun learning moment. Naming things also helps your child increase their vocabulary.

## Let's Ride (12 months–2.5 years)

**Vroom Tip:** As you ride in a bus, train, or car with your child, talk about the ride! You can say, "Here comes a bumpy road!" and talk about how it feels or sway back and forth as you say, "Here come the curves!" Talk about whether you're going fast or slow and how that feels. Let them try to describe the ride. Taking turns is fun!

**Brainy Background:** As you talk about your ride, you encourage your child to think flexibly and switch between different ideas. This promotes creative thinking. When they experience what words like bumpy mean, they're more likely to remember and use them later.

## Hand Talk (1–18 months)

**Vroom Tip:** Show your child how to tell you they're feeling hungry by touching their hand to their mouth or rubbing their belly. If you do this over and over and then give them food while saying the word "hungry," they will pick up the symbol and learn to talk to you with their hands.

**Brainy Background:** Children can express themselves with their hands (for example, by pointing) long before they can use words. Helping them learn to use "Hand Talk," will help them learn to communicate with words in the future.

## Peekaboo (6–12 months)

**Vroom Tip:** Grab whatever is nearby, like a blanket, a book, or your hand, and use it to play "Peekaboo" with your child. First you hide behind it and then say "Peekaboo!" Next, let them be the hider.

**Brainy Background:** "Peekaboo" helps your child learn that you're still there, even when you're hiding. But most of all, it's fun! Your face and voice are their favorite toys.

## Name the Vehicle (15 months–2.5 years)

**Vroom Tip:** Is your child trying to speak and imitate what you say? Try to build on this when you're out by pointing to vehicles that pass by and naming them. If you see a car, bus, truck or taxi, call it out. Involve them by having them point and name with you.

**Brainy Background:** Not only is your child learning new words, they're learning to pay careful attention to the differences between cars and taxis, trucks and buses. This involves understanding categories and matching things that are the same and different—all important learning skills.

## Multiplying Words (1–2.5 years)

**Vroom Tip:** When your child starts to say words or make sounds that could be words, connect them to more words. If they say "nose," you can say, "There's your nose and there's mine." If they say "beep, beep," you can say, "The horns on the car go beep, beep." Later you can ask, "What sound do cars make?"

**Brainy Background:** Children learn to speak by hearing you connect the sounds they make with words. And they learn more words when you add your words to theirs. In this way their brains become more efficient and faster at processing sounds—the building blocks of speech.

## Stop and Start the Music (1–2 years)

**Vroom Tip:** Set your radio to a music station and have your child turn it off and on. Every time they turn it on, start to dance—or move around—and say "on." When they turn it off, stop moving and say "off." Soon they will probably say "off" and "on" with you.

**Brainy Background:** Learning new words and concepts (like "off" and "on") is much easier at this age if your child can make something happen (like turning music off and on.) This helps add context to what these new words mean.