

Self-Directed, Engaged Learning

Vroom Tip™ Collection

LEARN MORE (0-5 YEARS)

Vroom Tip: What are your child's special interests—the things that make their eyes light up? Look for opportunities to help them learn more about these things. For example, if they like animals, look for animals wherever you go. Then, tell your child more about them.

Brainy Background: Building on their interests is one of the best ways to help your child learn! You can do so by telling them what you know or by showing them books or magazines about their interests. You can also extend their interest by asking them questions. You might ask, "How are those two cats different?"

NOTICE, YOU NOTICE (6 MONTHS – 3 YEARS)

Vroom Tip: Is your child interested in someone else's hair or skin? Children notice race and are curious. You might calmly say, "You're noticing that your friend has beautiful curly hair. That's her hair. Where is your hair?"

Brainy Background: Bringing up skin color or hair texture like you would any other part of the body shows your child that it is normal. They're also practicing how to see things from someone else's point of view. These skills are helpful in having good relationships now and in the future.

WHAT'S THAT? (12 MONTHS – 2 YEARS)

Vroom Tip: Does your child point and say "dat"? Ask them, "What do you want?" Have them lead you to what they're pointing at. When you find it, you can say, "That's a spoon!" or "That's the light switch!"

Brainy Background: From infancy on, children pay attention to the intentions of other people and want to tell you theirs. Pointing and saying "dat" is a first step toward learning how to communicate. You can help children learn this by finding what they want and naming it.

LITTLE INDEPENDENCE (2-3 YEARS)

Vroom Tip: Does your child want to do everything themselves? Whether it's eating with fingers or trying to use a fork, give them ways to be more independent. Talk to them about what they're doing. If they need, help them a little. When they're done, notice how they respond with a smile or an "I did it!" Celebrate with them!

Brainy Background: It may take longer and be messier, but you're helping your child to feel good and develop new skills. This will give them a sense they can try something new and succeed.

SIMPLE STEPS (2-4 YEARS)

Vroom Tip: Make cleanup more fun by starting small. Say something like, "You can pick up these three books first." After that, encourage your child to choose their next simple step. As they get the hang of it, increase the number of objects and add more steps.

Brainy Background: By helping your child break tasks down into steps, you encourage them to practice using strategies to achieve goals. They can use these strategies to take on challenges in the future.

KITCHEN MUSIC (3-5 YEARS)

Vroom Tip: Let your child create an instrument using a plastic container with measuring spoons or keys inside. Clap a rhythm or tap your toes. Ask them to try and copy your beat with their homemade instrument. Then, have them take a turn at leading and you follow their beat.

Brainy Background: Going back and forth in a game like this helps your child pay attention and remember the pattern of noises. It's a great brain builder!

FIND THE KEY (4 - 5 YEARS)

Vroom Tip: Is your child interested in your keys? While you watch, offer them a turn to try and open doors with them. Can they fit the key in the door? Talk with them about what they're doing like: "You're turning the key but the door won't open. What else should we try?"

Brainy Background: Offering your child chances to solve problems builds their independence, encourages them to follow their interests, and helps them find answers to questions on their own. Your support, with your words and actions, motivates them to keep trying even when things are hard.

SENSE SCAPE (4-5 YEARS)

Vroom Tip: Outside with your child? Name one of the senses like "see" or "hear." Encourage them to share everything they notice with that sense, like the sun shining or birds chirping. Then it's their turn to say one of the senses and your turn to share what you notice. Take turns using all your senses.

Brainy Background: When your child takes the time to slow down and notice what is going on around them, they're using skills like focus and self-control. Being able to pay attention, manage behavior, and follow rules are important skills for learning in school and in life.