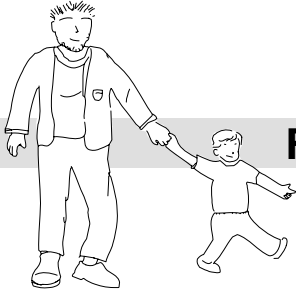
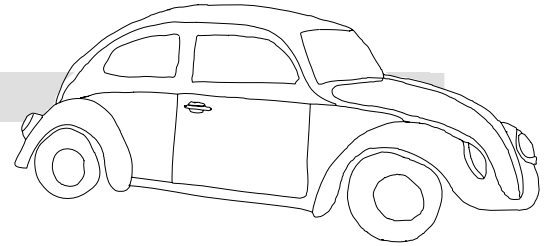


## Talking and Reading With Infants



**Follow the child's lead!**



# C

**Comment and Wait so the infant has time to respond**

An Infant is looking tired  
Adult: "I think you are sleepy."  
Wait 5 seconds

# A

**Ask Questions and Wait so the infant has time to respond**

An Infant reaches for a bottle  
Adult: "Do you want your bottle?"  
Wait 5 seconds

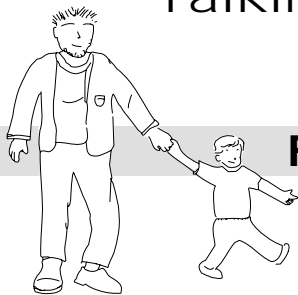
# R

**Respond by adding a little more**

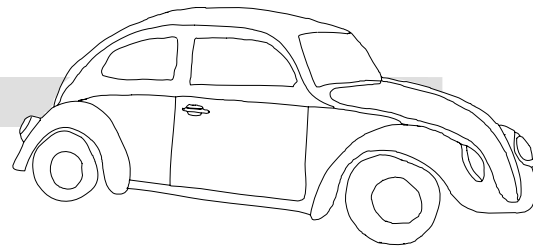
An Infant looks at picture of self and says "ba-ba"  
Adult says: "Ba-ba, you see baby Nate."  
Wait 5 seconds

**Waiting gives the infant time to respond**

## Talking and Reading With Toddlers



**Follow the child's lead!**



# C

### **Comment and Wait so the child has time to respond**

This dog has a funny hat.

Wait 5 seconds

The fish is swimming!

Wait 5 seconds

I like bananas.

Wait 5 seconds

# A

### **Ask Questions and Wait so the child has time to respond**

“What happened here?”

Wait 5 seconds

“What’s going on in this picture?”

Wait 5 seconds

“What’s she doing?”

Wait 5 seconds

# R

### **Respond by adding a little more and Wait**

Toddler says: “Boy eating!”

Adult says: “The boy is eating toast.”

Child says: “Owee.”

Adult says: “The baby has an owee.”

**Waiting gives the child time to respond**

## Things to Remember

### When “Reading” Books with Young Children:

Talking about books, instead of reading the words, is usually best with babies and younger toddlers.

- Gradually change as the child gets towards the age of 4.
  - Talk a lot and read little or none
  - Talk a lot and read some
  - Talk and read some
  - Read more than you talk
  - Read mostly and talk some
- Expose children to books when they are infants.
- Routines, transitions, calming down, and waking up times can be smoothed when adults and children “read” books together.
- There is no specific amount of time to spend with books. Let the child’s interest determine the time.
- It’s OK if the child wants to skip pages and/or start at the back.
  - It is developmentally appropriate and the child does not yet understand about the sequence of a story yet.
  - There are interesting pictures on all the pages—just talk about them.
- It’s OK when a toddler wants to “read” the same book over and over.
  - The need for repetition is developmental.
  - Young children learn best from things that are familiar.
- “Reading” time should be fun for the child and the adult.