

## Some of our key messages in Splash SureStart...



Did you know- At just 3 years' old, a child's brain has grown to about 80% the size of an adult's brain.

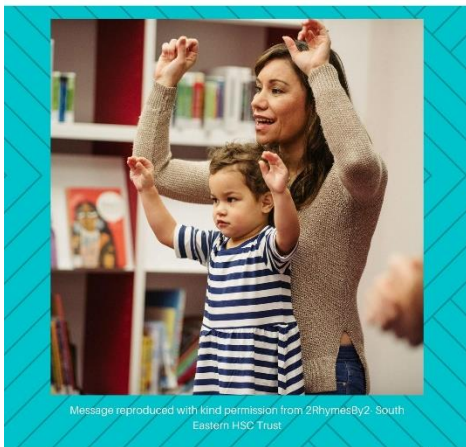


That means that the first few years are crucial to children's talking and development.

You make the difference in your child's development- spend time singing, talking and being face to face with them to give them the best start in life.



Sing a rhyme anytime,  
Start your child learning for a lifetime!



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HSC Health and Social  
Care Board

early years

Department of  
Education

Children's  
Services

### Singing nursery rhymes with your child can help them develop good:


- Talking, as it helps them understand and use new words and concepts
- Pronunciation
- social skills
- Skills for reading
- early skills for maths
- feelings of security with their parent or caregiver

## Being face to face with your baby can help you to:


- See how they are communicating, (e.g. smiling, gurgling, pointing)
- Then you can respond by smiling, singing and talking to them.
- When you do this, you are helping your baby to form brain connections

## Being face to face with your child can help them to:



- Feel like they're your number one priority
- Listen to you and watch you when you talk, which helps them learn how to talk




Take your place face to face,  
I learn the most when you are close




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Talk and sing wherever we go,  
That will help my brain to grow



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## You don't need any fancy toys to help your child with their talking

You can help them by singing and talking about what you're doing together through the day. For example:

- talk when you're making the dinner: 'let's switch the oven on. We have to wait until it gets really hot. Ok now let's put our food in to cook'
- talk and sing when you're doing chores: sing 'this is the way we wash our clothes'
- talk about what your child is playing with: 'oh, let's see the cars. They're so fast, will we have a race?'