



Resources for Families and Providers



## Talk With Me Baby

## Why Talking Matters

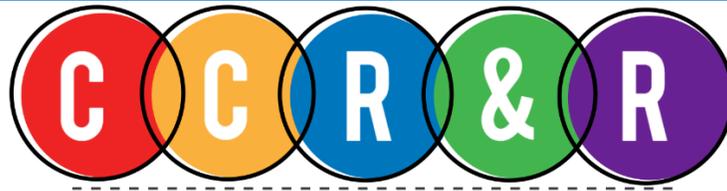


A baby's brain grows so fast! Research shows the number of loving words a baby hears in the first three years of life makes a BIG difference. All parents want the best for their baby. And we know healthy food helps grow a healthy baby. But to grow a healthy brain, babies need more. Babies need lots of loving words. [Talk With Me Baby](#) has resources for families and child care providers to address the 30 Million Word Gap and the importance of families talking with their children beginning at birth.

Talk With Me Baby is a partnership of six lead organizations that are committed to ensuring that every newborn in Georgia receives essential language nutrition and has the opportunity to reach their full potential. The lead partners are: the Georgia Department of Public Health and Department of Education, Emory University's School of Nursing and Department of Pediatrics, the Marcus Autism Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, the Atlanta Speech School's Rollins Center for Language and Literacy, and Get Georgia Reading - Georgia's Campaign for Grade Level Reading. As leaders in the field of health, education, and policy, these partners understand the impact that abundant "language nutrition" has on early brain development and how it sets the stage for success in school and the workplace which in turn affects health and well-being.

The resources for families and providers include videos, information and tracking of developmental milestones, tips to use anytime and anywhere, and a soon to be released app for getting language nutrition on-the-go! Families can download the free app to get weekly lessons and talking tips, to track their baby's milestones and their own experiences talking with their babies.

- [Learn more about the Word Gap.](#)
- [Learn more about using any language.](#)
- [Learn about early brain development.](#)



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## Why Talking Matters



## Talk With Me Baby



### **4 things providers can do with these resources:**

1. Use the resources to build the capacity of infant and toddler teachers to become conversational partners with the children in their care.
2. Use the videos in a parent meeting or as a link on your website to emphasize the importance of families supporting children's language development by talking with their children.
3. Use the [resource library](#) from the Cox Campus to find information and activities to enhance language and literacy development in classrooms and for tips to give to families.
4. Provide professional development to teachers and staff on ways to support families in providing Language Nutrition with their children. On the website find the courses available through [the Cox Campus](#). There are 18 additional research-based credit hours of preschool and pre-k courses, designed to enhance early learning instructional experiences for preschool children through the use of strategies that promote language and literacy development.

### **4 things families can do with these resources:**

1. Learn the importance of [families talking with their children](#) to support language development.
2. Watch [short videos](#) that help them understand the ways they can support their children's language development.
3. Learn about the [brain development](#) of young children.
4. Download the soon to be released free app to get weekly lessons, track their babies' milestones, get talking tips, and share their own experiences talking with their babies



*Resources for Families and Providers*

## Understood

### Even Simple Tasks Can Present Unique Challenges



Parents want the best for their children. The [Understood](#) organization works to help parents navigate the challenges many face when they have children with unique challenges. 15 nonprofit organizations have joined forces to support parents of the one in five children with learning and attention issues throughout their journey.

With the right support, parents can help children unlock their strengths and reach their full potential. With state-of-the-art technology, personalized resources, free daily access to experts, a secure online community, practical tips and more. Understood aims to be that support.

- [Learn how to set daily expectations for children with sensory or behavior issues.](#)
- [Find ways to address social problems your child may encounter.](#)
- [Understand your child's challenges.](#)



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### Even Simple Tasks Can Present Unique Challenges

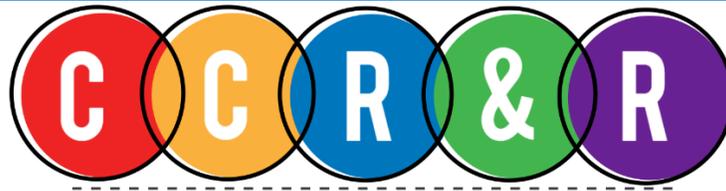


#### **4 things providers can do with this resource:**

1. Experience the way a preschooler with learning and attention issues [views and feels about an activity](#) or situation “Through Your Child’s Eyes”.
2. Watch a video of [Different Kinds of Learning Disabilities](#). Discuss this in a staff meeting and share ideas and materials that you could send home to parents about learning and attention issues.
3. Learn how [different teaching methods and intervention strategies](#) can help children with learning and attention issues.
4. Recognize the [differences between a tantrum and a sensory meltdown](#).

#### **4 things families can do with this resource:**

1. Learn more about [IEPs](#) and how to [make the most of IEP meetings](#).
2. [Chat with an expert](#) online to ask questions and get more information about their children’s learning and attention issues.
3. Watch the video, [Common Strengths of Children with Learning and Attention Issues](#), to understand the strengths of their children.
4. Discover ways to help their children handle [emotions and frustration](#).



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## Special Needs Scholarship

The [Gardiner Scholarship](#) program helps parents individualize the educational plans for their children with certain special needs.

**A different kind of scholarship.** The Gardiner Scholarship is different than other state scholarships in that it allows parents to personalize the education of their children with unique abilities by directing money toward a combination of programs and approved providers. These include schools, therapists, specialists, curriculum, technology – even a college savings account.

The Gardiner Scholarship amount varies according to grade and county of residence. The average amount for most students in the 2017-18 school year is **\$10,000**. [Click here to view the 2017-18 Gardiner Scholarship Amounts \(PDF\)](#).

### New students

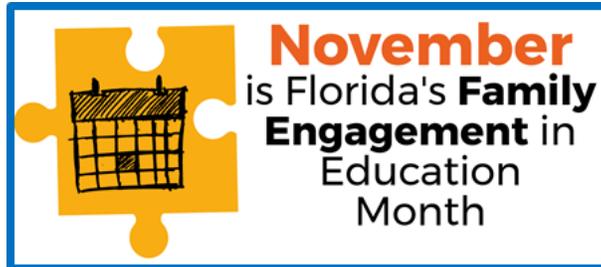
- If the student does not have a matrix level of services, funding defaults to 90% of the 253 level.
- If the student has a matrix level of services on file with the Florida Department of Education, due to public school enrollment, of 254 or 255, they will be funded at 90% of that matrix level, and they will not need to utilize the matrix review process established in the Gardiner law in order to receive the additional funding.
  - Most students with an IEP will not have a matrix level of services.
  - If you have an IEP, you are not required to request a matrix level. *Please note that doing so could adjust your matrix level and corresponding amount of scholarship funding down to a lower level.*

### Renewal students

- The funding calculation remains the same, and defaults to a matrix that assigns the student to 90% of the 253 level, unless the student's parent has asked the school district for a revised matrix.



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When schools and providers work together with families to support learning, children are more likely to succeed not just in school, but throughout life. The Florida Department of Education and the Office of Early Learning recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by both schools, providers and families during the entire period a child spends in out of home care and in school. Share some of the resources from Talk With Me Baby and Understood with families as well as others listed below.

#### **Family Engagement Resources**

- [Family Engagement Month Pledge](#)
- [The Importance of Parental Involvement](#) (video)
- [Parent Involvement in Early Childhood Education](#) (video)
- [OEL's Family Engagement Month Pinterest Board](#)
- [OEL's Family Resources Pinterest Board](#)
- [CDC's Learn the Signs. Act Early](#)
- [Center for Early Literacy Learning](#)
- [OEL's Family Engagement Resources Dropbox](#)

#### **4 things providers can do with these resources:**

1. Celebrate families by hosting a family event during November. Post pictures of the staff's and the children's families on a bulletin board. Show the videos on the importance of family engagement.
2. Examine the school or classroom environment to see if it is "Family Friendly" and review the [OEL Family Engagement Checklist for Providers](#).
3. Share family resources found on the [Child Care Resource and Referral page](#) on OEL's website.
4. Tell families about [Vroom](#), OEL's Pinterest and Resources and [Talk With Me Baby](#).

#### **4 things families can do with this resource:**

1. Take the [pledge](#) to be an engaged parent in your child's education and healthy development.
2. Find activities to do as a family during [Family Engagement Month](#) on the Office of Early Learning's Pinterest Boards or on the Office of Early Learning's [Family Resources](#)
3. Support their child's learning with resources from [Talk With Me Baby](#).
4. Use the [Vroom app](#) or Vroom Texting to get daily tips to support their children's brain development.



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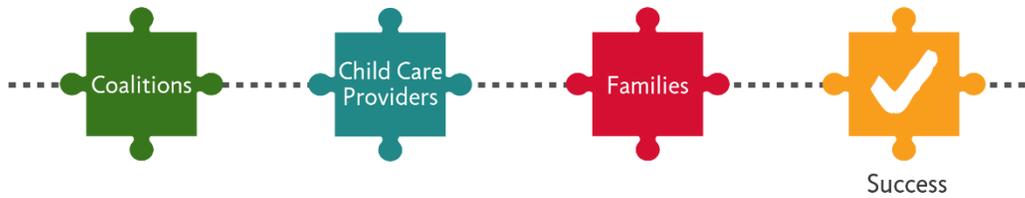


**November** is Florida's **Family Engagement** in Education Month



Activities include

- Social media activity
- Contests
- Family activity calendar for the month
- Tips to promote family engagement
- Vroom week Nov. 27 - Dec. 1



Child Care Resource and Referral

