

itty-bitty art

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ART

Babble and Chat

You're really speaking our language! From the beginning, infants communicate by making noises of all kinds. This resource is full of baby-friendly prompts for encouraging language development, inspired by Carter artworks. Let's chat!

Talk to Me

The baby in this lithograph by Sedrick Huckaby looks like they're having quite the conversation with us! Take a minute to read the grumpy look on the child's face, the way they bend their arm around the crib, and the way they speak to someone out of sight. What do you think the baby is saying? Babies practice their language skills with us all the time, whether they're cooing, crying, or mirroring their grown-ups' hand gestures. How does your infant communicate with you?

Tell me About It!

Every artwork has a story! Where are the people in Justine Kurland's *The Wall* walking? Where have they been? They look like they're in the middle of an adventure. Spend some time telling the "story" of this and other [Carter artworks](#), just like reading a book. Practice having meaningful conversations about art with your baby using some of the [language development suggestions](#) from NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children).

Babbling About. . .

Infants often start babbling around six or seven months old, pairing single consonants with vowels (ba-ba, da-da, etc.). You can use artwork to help your baby give meaning to their babbling over time by matching words and images to their sounds. Let's use *Pink Cyclamen* by Fidelia Bridges as an example! Look at this painting together and listen for your baby's babbling noises. You could match "ga-ga" to green leaves, or "puh-puh" to pink, petals, or pot! As you say each word, remember to point to the corresponding object in the artwork.

Reading Aloud

Babies respond to singing and silly sounds. A fun way to help your child develop their language skills is to read books or sing songs with lots of onomatopoeia, or even make up your own! Playing with sounds and syllables while reading, talking, or singing will help your child learn to speak.

[*Moo, Baa, La La La!* by Sandra Boynton](#)

[*Abre la puerta del granero. . .* by Christopher Santoro](#)

[*Chapulín Colorado: sounds = sonidos : a bilingual book of onomatopoeias* by Patty Rodriguez](#)

[*Bb!* by C. Hope Flinchbaugh](#)

[*Vroom Vroom: A Garbage Truck* by Asia Citro](#)

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Sedrick Huckaby (b. 1975)
#081 *Untitled*, 2012–13
Lithograph

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas
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2015.4.81



Justine Kurland (b. 1969)
The Wall, 2000, printed 2019
Inkjet print

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P2019.2



Fidelia Bridges (1834–1923)

Pink Cyclamen, ca. 1875

Transparent and opaque watercolor heightened with gum glaze and graphite on paper

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