

Babies are born with just about all the neurons they will ever have. Some of these trillions of brain neurons will dissipate naturally. Others form neural connections that allow electrical impulses to flow between them. Up to age three, the brains of children are forming connections furiously. The brain is being sculpted by experience.

Dr. Patricia Kuhl, *Born to Learn: Language, Reading, and the Brain of the Child*, 2003.

INTRODUCTION

111 Ways to Help Jump-Start Your Child's Learning provides proven methods to stimulate young children and make strong connections between neurons. With a strong network of neuron connections, learning becomes easier for children. Adults interpret this as smarter children.

By using these proven methods, it's the children who will benefit. A child under five years is a fine-tuned machine capable beyond his years. Adults can provide oil for this machine, but then "stand aside" as the machine runs on its own. If left alone, the machine may leave the "beaten track." This is where intelligence is born.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patricia Derrick, Bachelor of Science, Master of Education, is an award winning author of children's books. With 30 years experience owning and operating early learning centers and Montessori Schools, Patricia has proven methods used in her schools for years. The methods included in this booklet are based on 30 years of teaching experience and positive feedback from parents.

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TODDLING THINKERS

1 Use sign language to allow the non-verbal child a means to communicate with significant others. Using sign language will invoke immediate responses. A non-verbal child can finally communicate without fussing and crying. The guess work is minimized as the child gains confidence in his ability to get responses from others.

2 Teach sign language to everyone who interacts with the child. This includes grandparents, nanny, Sunday school teacher, and neighboring friends. Provide written sign language guidelines so everyone will be on the same page. Communication within your child's world will then be consistent.

3 Introduce a foreign language. It is easier for a 3-year-old to learn a second language than it is for an adult. Have a mother/child language party in your neighborhood that includes different cultures and individuals fluent in foreign languages.

4 Respond to the child when the child is communicating with you. Language is communicating, so if the child is not using familiar words but you understand the meaning of what he is communicating, respond with the words he is trying to say. Remember babbling is communicating so respond to babbling as if the child were using words.

5 Exaggerate sounds to help young children hear language. Exaggerated and repeated sounds make language more concrete and understandable for a child beginning to speak or read.

6 Allow language to occur naturally without intervention by adults. Children can learn language on their own. They can put together sounds, intonations and accents without instruction from an adult.