**Important Facts about**

**Childrens Brain Development**

You’ve probably heard the phrase “kids are like sponges.” A child’s brain develops in very important ways during the first 3 years of life. Exercising a baby’s brain in these early years is like strength-training for the mind. By talking, reading and singing, you can build connections in the brain that will affect a child’s life forever. What you do today can result in a larger vocabulary, more developed social and emotional skills and even a more successful financial future for a child.

By the age of 5, a child’s brain will have grown to 90% of its adult size. But even earlier than that, by age 3, it’s already reached 82% of its size. This proves that the earliest days, months and years of a child’s life matter so much when it comes to early experiences that shape brain growth and development.

A child is born with the ability to learn and absorb your words faster than you can imagine.

By the time a child is 3 years old, he or she should know or recognize about 1,000 words. This important milestone doesn’t happen on its own, though. It needs your efforts. Having lots of conversations with your child, sharing songs and reading regularly will set him or her on a path for success. Children who learn fewer words by age 3 suffer with poorer vocabularies and are behind when they start school, often never catching up.

The most important education a child will ever receive takes place right at home. You don’t need a lesson plan or fancy toys, just plenty of words, songs and love. Even if you do not read well, make up stories based on pictures in a book or magazine. Babies who are read and talked to early often develop better vocabularies and wind up doing better in school. Read together every day for at least 30 minutes.

Kids have lots of questions– start asking your them questions throughout the day. “What color are daddy’s socks?” “Do you see the red car driving next to us?” “What would you like for dinner tonight?” Aim for twenty questions a day.

Your words are worth $1 million. Talking, reading and singing set your child up for a significantly more successful future. Your child’s increased vocabulary means he or she will be less likely to drop out of school later, and that equates to earning $1 million more dollars in lifetime income.