



Instructional Plan

LISTEN
TOPIC 3

Outcomes

- Parents will recognize that babies use emotional signals to communicate needs, wants, and feelings.
- Parents will be able to identify the basic emotions of infancy and the facial cues, body language, and voice cues associated with each emotion.
- Parents will recognize that emotional expressions are related to development.
- Parents will gain skills in reading and responding to a baby's emotional signals.

FOUR-STEP INSTRUCTIONAL PROCESS

1

PRESENTATION OF CONCEPTS

INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC

■ **Listen, your baby is communicating with you.**

- Show pictures of babies expressing a variety of emotions. “If this baby could talk, what would he or she say?” Parents develop a baby statement for each picture. Note how responses can be different for different people. What cues did parents use to determine what each baby was saying? Make a word bubble for the best statement for each picture. You may want to display them in the nursery or other appropriate places.
- Summarize: “Listen! Baby Is Talking to You,” [see pg. 3 of the *Small Talk* supplement in the appendix and in the *Parent Handouts* appendix].

KEY CONCEPTS

■ **Emotion is the language of infancy** [see *Conceptual Overview #1*].

- From the moment of birth, parents and their babies communicate with one another through emotional signals.
 - Use topic animal artwork to talk about emotion as the language of infancy.
 - Explain: Even newborns can read emotions and will respond to emotional expressions, e.g., a Moro reflex (startle reflex) to a fearful face. Infants experience and express a range of emotions.