

## **First Words – Gesturing Activity**

Use the word on your child's Meta-thread garment as a "home base" for exploring similar colors, similar shapes, similarly sounding words and so on. The vast majority of infants will not be able to read the words on their Meta-threads garment. However, your child can still begin to learn complex words and concepts of the English language through early exposure.

Using the Meta-threads garment, gesture back and forth at the color of the shirt and objects of similar color. Gesture back and forth between the shape on your child's Meta-thread and other similarly shaped objects. As you gesture and touch back and forth, speak the word out loud. Use the word in a variety of sentences and contexts. If you speaking about an action, perform the action for your child to see. And allow them to clearly see your mouth and lips as you speak.

Gesturing is something your child already does naturally. This activity encourages gesturing as a more advanced communicative form by beginning to associate advanced concepts and information with the gesture. Whether or not your child grasps these more advanced concepts is debatable. What we do know is that an infant's brain is exceptionally malleable and it is in these early years of language development that humans begin to pick up on the nuances of their native language.

The more exposure your child has to a range of sounds, words, concepts and other parts of the language the larger is the ground you are tilling for more fruitful returns later in life. And, what is not debatable is the positive habits and learning exercises that you as a parent are creating for yourself and for your child. You are priming yourself and your child to reach beyond what is perceived as their current developmental capabilities. Creating challenging habits of learning and inquiry sets a precedence for yourself as teacher and for your child as inquisitive learner! Infant and Toddler Meta-threads, in other words, is not just for your child, but for parents as well.