



## **APRIL CURRICULUM CORNER**

### **Try Sportscasting!**

By: Liza Pringle

Wonders Early Learning Curriculum and Instructions Specialist

To enhance your child’s language skills and cognitive abilities try acting like a sportscaster! For infants, narrating the details of what you are doing in a calm and connected way has so many brain benefits. Get close, gaze into their eyes, and describe what is happening around them and to them. Adding gestures and big facial expressions makes this close communication even more impactful. It may feel silly sometimes, but to help your baby learn about the back-and-forth nature of conversations, pause for their response — even if their response is just a smile, a wiggle, or a shift in where they’re looking. [HERE](#) is a short video that presents fascinating brain research on what happens when parents sportscast to their babies using the style of talking called “parentese.”

Educator and therapist Magda Gerber, who coined the concept “sportscasting,” emphasizes the benefits of using a “just the facts” description of what is going on as a powerful strategy for helping older children learn self-regulation and problem-solving skills. Your neutral description of an event like, “You built a big tower and your tower fell down,” helps children feel that their actions and emotions are seen and valued. With older children, the impact of your words comes not primarily from you being a color commentator, but from your calm and caring play-by-play.