

Let's keep talking

Supporting speech and language skills at home

You can make everything you do with your child a language learning experience - whether it's preparing a meal or a trip to the store. You don't have to set aside a specific time of day for speech and language learning. Here are some tips to make every activity a language learning activity.



TALK, TALK, TALK
Talk with your child a lot



- Talk out loud about what you're doing. "I'm cutting strawberries with a knife" or "I'm looking for a new pair of brown shoes."
- Talk about the foods on the menu and their color, texture, and taste when in the kitchen. Talk about where to put things. Ask your child to put the napkin on the table, in your lap, or under the spoon. Talk about who the cup belongs to. Say, "That is my cup." "It is Daddy's." "It is Elizabeth's."
- Talk about where things are, using words like "behind" and "first," "middle," and "last" or "right" and "left." Have your child follow directions, "Put your bowl and spoon in the sink."
- Talk out loud about what your child is doing. Say, "You're driving the blue truck up the hill" or "You have bubbles on your nose."

- Add 1 word – Use one more word than your child is using. If your child says, “The dragon,” you can say “The green dragon”
- Use stress and intonation to highlight the words you want your child to focus on. “The plane flying” you can repeat, “The plane *is* flying” or if your child says “Take a bag,” you repeat the correct production, “Want to take a **ba**th?”
- Offer two choices, “Do you want to wear the red shirt or the yellow shirt?”



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Read book



- Choose a picture book to read together. Read the words, but also talk about the pictures.
- Read books and talk with your child about the story
- Ask and answer “WH” questions:

Who are the characters?

When did this story happen (e.g. part and time of day/night, season, year)?

Where did it happen (e.g. planet, country, city, small town, desert)?

What happened?

Why did things happen?

How did the characters fix the problem?

Talk about the characters’ feelings.

- Is your child working on a specific sound? Read a book together, and have your child listen for their

sound. Practice the words in the book with your child's sound.

- This is a free resource where famous actors read to children. [Storylineonline.net](https://www.storylineonline.net)
- Reading the same book more than once helps with language learning.



PLAY, PLAY, PLAY
Play games and sing
songs



- Play games with your child such as "house." Let your child be the parent, and you pretend to be the child.
- Play "I-spy" and have your child guess what you describe. Say, "I spy something we use to sweep the floor," and have your child find the broom. You can also describe something and have your child guess what you are thinking about, "It is cold, sweet, and good for dessert. I like chocolate so they can guess "ice cream."
- Play a remembering game. Start by saying something like: "We're going to the moon and we're going to take a spoon,". Ask your children to repeat what you said and add another item. For example: We're going to the moon and we're going to take a spoon and a pillow. As you go from one person to another, keep adding items. "We're going to the moon and we're going to take a spoon, a pillow and some boiled eggs." All members of the family can play. Change the format a little by having children choose an activity instead of an object "On our trip we're going to ride a camel, swim in a pond and eat mangos." or choose something that begins with the same sound, "Jack went shopping and bought juice and Jelly beans." Keep adding items as you go around in the same way.
- Go on a listening walk. This a great way to get your child thinking about the sounds they hear and finding

words to describe them. Let your child walk for a while and then stop. What do you hear? Talk with them about what they hear (woosh of the wind, chirp of the birds).

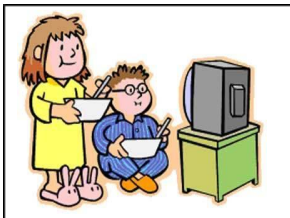
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes together
- Play board games (e.g. Scattergories, Apples to Apples and Guess Who)



For older children



- Keep your child reading. Find books and magazines that interest your child.
- Ask your child what they think about what they hear or read. Connect what they read to events in life.
- Talk out loud as you help your child read about and solve problems.
- Get your child to write letters, keep a diary, journal and write stories.



Watch TV and movies together



Talk about what your child is watching. Have your child guess what might happen next. Ask your child to retell what happened in the story. Talk about the characters and ask your child to identify and interpret the feelings of the characters. Have your child write a different ending to the story.

References

<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/Activities-to-Encourage-Speech-and-Language-Development/>

<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/suggestions/>

[https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Natalie-Snyders/Price-Range/Free/Category/-8902-FREEBIE S-98075](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Natalie-Snyders/Price-Range/Free/Category/-8902-FREEBIE-S-98075)