

Simple Talking Activities

Children learn language and other early literacy skills by listening to their parents and others talk. As children hear spoken language, they learn new words and what they mean. They learn about the world around them and important general knowledge. This will help children understand the meaning of what they read.

- Make sure your child has lots of opportunities to talk with you, not just listen to you talk.
- Respond to what your child says and extend the conversation. “Yes, we did see a truck like that last week. It’s called a bulldozer.”
- Stretch your child’s vocabulary. Repeat what your child says and use new words. “You want a banana? That’s a very healthy choice.”
- Talk about what you’re doing as you go through your day. Ask your child questions, listen to answers, and then ask another question based on what your child said.
- Labeling games are just right for younger children and a wonderful way to learn new words. Babies love playing, “Where is your nose? Where are your toes?” Older children also like to label things too. As you go through your day, label objects and events in your child’s world.
- If English isn’t your first language, speak to your child in the language you know best. This allows you to explain things more fluently so your child will learn more.