

TALKING



Facts about Talking

- The more words a child hears at home, the more words he/she will understand and speak at school.
- The more words a child can speak, the more likely they will recognize words in print.
- Take turns while speaking with your child. This helps them understand how conversation works.
- Talking with your child will help them hear sounds that make up words.



Social-Emotional Development

Talking connects children to the world around them. It is important for children to develop language skills that help them express how they are feeling. It is also important for children to understand that people around them have feelings. When you use language to explain this to children, it helps them to have healthy relationships with others. When you take turns talking with your child, this helps build conversation skills such as listening and speaking.



Language and Communication

Talking is the way most people communicate with each other. It is important for your child to understand that not all people speak the same way. Talk to your child about how people of different cultures speak different languages. Talk to your child about sign language and why people use it to communicate. Speak and read to your child in your first language, but expose them to other languages through books, songs, and other types of media.



Books That Encourage Talking

- ***Bee & Bird*** –Craig Frazier
- ***Is Your Mama a Llama?*** –Deborah Guarino; Steven Kellogg
- ***The Doorbell Rang*** –Pat Hutchins
- ***Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?*** –Bill Martin, Jr., Eric Carle
- ***The Napping House*** –Audrey Wood; Don Wood



Activities That Encourage Talking

- When you read with your child, ask questions about what will happen next. This helps your child develop language and vocabulary skills, which are important skills for school.
- At the end of the day, take time to talk to your child about all of the things that happened that day. Ask your child to tell you their favorite part of the day, and share your favorite part with them. This helps children with conversation skills.
- When you run errands, such as shopping at the grocery store or going to the post office, talk to your child about what the workers are doing and why you are there. This helps children connect language to the world around them.
- Play games like “I Spy,” (one person “spies” an item of a certain color and the other person has to guess what it is). Games such as this require descriptive vocabulary, visual, and listening skills.
- Ask your child to make choices when it is appropriate, such as deciding what they would like to drink with their meal. This allows a child to use their words and make independent decisions.



Session 1: Talking

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Ask your child to talk about his/her favorite part of the day.		Read about a place your child has been before. Talk about the similarities and differences in the text.
	Talk often to your child. The more words a child hears, the more successful they will be with reading later.		Encourage your child to draw a picture. Ask him/her to tell you about the picture. Write down the description.		Play a rhyming game. Say a word and ask your child to say a word that rhymes, or sounds like the word.	
Ask your child to tell you a story.		Visit the library! Encourage your child to ask a librarian about a book he/she would like to read.		Point out familiar signs around town. Ask your child to tell you what they say.		At lunchtime, ask your child to tell you the steps for making a sandwich.
	Before you read a story together, talk about what you think it will be about.		Try a few tongue twisters together. Playing with sounds helps a child develop language skills.		Talk about new words as you read a new story together.	
Allow your child to talk to a friend or family member on the phone.		Visit the library! Talk about the different types of books in the library and how they are organized.		Talk about the weather. Ask your child to describe what it looks and feels like outside.		Give your child a three-step direction to follow as he/she gets ready for bed.

Early Literacy Practice: Talking

The activities this month will give you the opportunity to model language and conversation skills for your child. Studies show the more language that a child hears at home, the better chance they have of becoming a successful reader. Language and literacy are connected.

Readiness Domain Focus: Social and Emotional Development, Language and Communication Development