

Reading for Success

Talking builds reading readiness

Talking with children helps them develop the language skills they need to become readers. They learn to connect sounds with meaning. And they learn that what they have to say is important. This motivates them to learn and use language more.

Use these talking tips

- **Talk with your child** when doing everyday tasks. Say what you're doing as you cook, eat and do laundry. See if your child can name foods, objects and clothing.
- **Say to your child**, "I like your ideas. Can you tell me more?"
- **Watch TV together.** Then turn it off and talk about what you saw.
- **Take your child** to story hour at the library. When it's over, say, "Tell me all about it!"
- **Have your child** tell you a story. Ask questions to encourage the use of specific details.
- **Talk about colors, shapes, sizes and alphabet letters** throughout the day.
- **Talk when you read together.** Point to and name what you see in the pictures. Ask your child questions such as: What do you see? What are your favorite parts of the story? What do you think will happen next?
- **Give your child** plenty of time to think and answer after you ask a question.
- **Ask your child** to tell you about pictures and drawings.



- **Ask your child to tell** a favorite family story. Then talk about other family adventures, such as memorable vacations or funny mishaps.
- **Tell stories together.** You can take turns adding sentences to a story. Or you can ask your child questions as you go along. For instance, "What should this character do next?"

Take a literacy walk & talk

Parents often hear, "Sit down and read with your child." But walking around with your child provides a lot to talk about and helps to build language skills, too. Take a walk with your child often and:

- **Read signs,** street names and names on mailboxes.
- **Collect leaves, rocks or flowers.** Count them. Ask your child questions about their texture, shape and color.
- **Encourage your child** to ask questions. If you don't know the answer, look it up. Or check books out on the subject the next time you go to the library.
- **Talk about the colors** of houses, trees, leaves and cars.
- **Make up a story** with your child about your walk and write it down.

