

Language Strategies: Self-Talk

Talk about what you are doing and seeing throughout your day. Try to emphasize actions or objects that your child seems interested in.

Household Chores: Talk about what you are doing, including names of objects and descriptions



"Let's wash dishes"

"Look at the bubbles!"

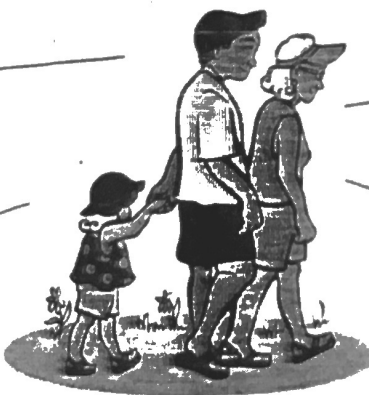
"Oops, I got wet!"

"I'm washing the blue cup."

Exploring/Daily Activities: Speak naturally with your child. Talk about your feelings and describe your surroundings.

"I like walking."

"I feel warm."



"I see a pretty flower!"

"Mommy's walking fast."

Mealtime: Use your words to name food and bring up new concepts.

"Yummy sandwich! I like turkey."

"I'm so hungry."

"This melon is sweet"

"Uh-oh, my juice is all gone."



Reading Books with Babies and Toddlers



Every parent knows that reading with your child is important, but the type of books you choose for babies and toddlers can impact language learning as well. Looking at books with children is a great way for them to learn new vocabulary words and concepts and it offers great family bonding time. When selecting books for your child, the key is to *keep it simple*. Board books with bright simple pictures and a few words on each page are the way to go for babies and toddlers.

It's never too early to make reading a part of your daily routine. Read before your baby's morning nap. Set books on his blanket during tummy time. Read before you put your toddler to bed. Start the habit of reading with your baby and toddler now. It's one of the most important things you can do to connect with your child & support language development.

Helpful Hints for Reading with Your Child

- Remember that you do not have to read all of the words on the page, just point out a few pictures and talk about what your child seems interested in. Follow your child's lead and go as fast or as slow as he needs to.
- Children love books with real pictures or colorful cartoon drawings. You can go to the library or book store and let your child look at several different books to see what kind of pictures he is most interested in before you check them out or buy them.
- Young toddlers who are just beginning to use books often do better with board books that have thicker pages. Books with textures can also help increase a child's interest in reading.
- Allow your child to read favorite books over and over again; children love repetition. Frequent exposure to the same book will help your child learn the words in his book and also provides an opportunity for him to tell parts of the story to you when he learns some of the words.
- As your child becomes more familiar with a book, ask questions like "What's that?", "Where'd he go?", or "What's he doing?" You can also give choices like "Does the puppy say 'meow' or 'woof'?" or "Does he want the cookie or the pizza?" to encourage your child to fill in words he knows.
- Encourage your child to point to pictures that he knows and label them. He may also point to pictures on his own and look to you to 'ask' for the names of things he likes.

Recommended Books

For babies and younger toddlers:



For older toddlers and preschoolers:



For more information on speech language and literacy check out: <http://buildingblockslanguage.com>

Language Strategies: Parallel-Talk

Talk about what your child is doing and label objects that he seems interested in. During parallel-talk, you will be the one doing most of the talking, but don't forget to pause to let your child join in. Watch and listen to the cues your child gives you (eye-contact, babble, labeling, or just focusing on something) and respond appropriately.

Playtime: Label and describe what your child is interested in as you play.

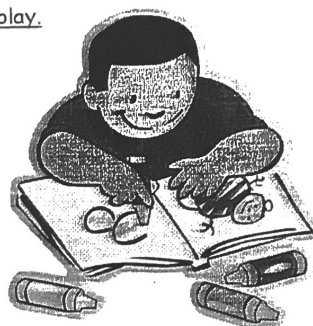
You could say:

_____ "You have the green crayon"

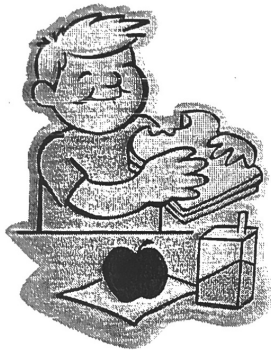
_____ "Coloring is fun"

_____ "You colored the bear yellow."

_____ "Bears say 'grrr'."



Mealtime: Talk about foods your child is eating and describe what you think he is experiencing.



You could say:

_____ "You're eating lunch"

_____ "The juice is cold."

_____ "That's a red apple."

_____ "Yummy sandwich"

_____ "You like PB & J"

Getting Dressed: Name items you are using and talk about descriptive concepts.

You could say:

_____ "Now your jacket's on."

_____ "It's cold outside."

_____ "That's your red hat"

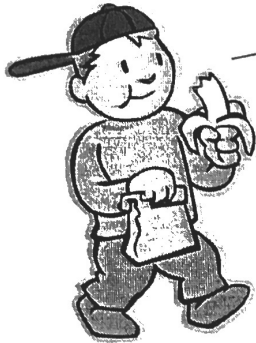
_____ "Button jacket up."



Language Strategies: Expansion

Build on the single words your child is using, by repeating the word back along with one or two additional words. This will model phrases that your child can use and will help teach longer phrases.

Mealtime: Talk about what you are eating including names, tastes, and temperature.



"Nah-na"

You could say:

"Yummy banana"

"Eat banana"

"Banana's squishy"

Daily Routines: Use names for actions or objects and descriptions.

You could say:

"My shoes"

"Blue shoes"

"Shoes on"

"shoe"



Playtime: Add action words, possessive words, and descriptions.



"Ball!"

You could say:

"Catch ball"

"Big ball"

"Uh-oh, ball fell!"