

Talking, Listening & Understanding: Communication Tips

Language, communication, and early literacy and writing are critical to children's ability to learn, work, and play with others. Language and literacy development involves the way children learn to communicate with sounds, words and gestures, and eventually, the way they learn to read and write. Children develop language and literacy through interactions with adults and other children, engagement with materials and instructional experiences.

Families can follow these tips to further their child's communication skills:

- 1.** Read to your child at local libraries and bookstores, at home, anywhere.
- 2.** Use colors to describe objects when talking to your child.
- 3.** Sing action songs that require moving hands and feet.
- 4.** Provide toys that hold his attention while playing alone.
- 5.** Show and describe big and little objects.
- 6.** Read at least one book to your child every day.
- 7.** Ask your child her name and whose face is in the mirror.
- 8.** Talk to your child about what you are doing.
- 9.** Sign up for a library card.
- 10.** Sign songs like "Where is Thumbkin" and "Five Little Monkeys."
- 11.** Read books about special occasions.
- 12.** Look at pictures and talk about them.
- 13.** Take walks in the neighborhood and talk about what you see.
- 14.** Clap, laugh and praise your child when he does something new.
- 15.** Attend the local library events (e.g. reading hour).
- 16.** Listen to what your child has to say and then respond.
- 17.** Make a special time for reading stories (e.g. bedtime).