

ROCK THE Talk

Why Talking With Your Child Matters



Speech & Language Services



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“Oral language is the basis for literacy, thinking, and relating in all languages.”

(Kindergarten Program, 2017)

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Dear families,

You are our most valuable partners in providing your child with opportunities to talk and listen.

Developing strong communication skills will be important for your child's success in life and in the classroom. This booklet provides simple strategies for encouraging language growth, in the language(s) of your home, throughout your child's day. While these ideas are good for all children, some may benefit from additional support.

As an active part of the school community, we provide a range of speech and language services to meet the needs of all children. We are pleased to be a part of your child's school team.

Sincerely,

The Speech and Language Services Department





Helping Your Child Speak Clearly

- Create a relaxed time for talking where distractions are limited and your child has your undivided attention. When you speak clearly and without hurry it encourages your child to do the same.



- Listen to what your child is saying not how it is being said, and respond to what she has communicated.



- If your child makes a sound error, repeat her message with the right pronunciation. Don't ask her to repeat you; the value comes from her hearing you say it correctly.
- If your child says, "**I like the jellow one**", you model back, "**I like the yellow one too!**"

Most children entering kindergarten speak clearly enough for people outside the family to understand them. Modeling clear and smooth speech is an effective way to help your child develop these skills.

Speech Sound Development by Age:

3 4 5 6 7 8

h	m	k	y	l	r
	f	d	j	sh	th
w	n	b	g	v	z
p	t	ing	ch	blends	



Helping Your Child Say Bigger Words and More of Them

- Talk about what you and your child are doing and feeling throughout daily activities. Use lots of descriptive words to enrich his vocabulary.
- Expand on and extend what your child has said by adding new words or more information to his original message.
 - When your child says, *"I see a truck"*, you respond, *"I see a big garbage truck. It is loud."*
- If your child makes a grammar error, repeat back what he said using the correct grammar. This allows him to hear the correction without telling him he was wrong.
 - When your child says, *"Her goed there"*, you model back, *"Yes, she went there."*
- Encourage conversations by getting down to your child's eye level, showing an interest in what he is doing and pausing to allow time for him to respond.
- Daily reading with your child exposes him to new words, a variety of grammar structures, concepts and new ideas.



Children develop language through talking and listening to others! Talking with your child teaches new words, grammar and ideas.



Helping Your Child to Learn Through Stories



The language of stories and books helps build the foundation of literacy.

- There are many ways to use books.
 - » Look at the cover and make a prediction about what might happen in the story.
 - » Listen for new words and talk about what they mean.
 - » Put your child's name in the story.
 - » Look at the pictures and talk about them together.
 - » Enjoy rereading the same book many times.
 - » Have your child tell the story back using her own words. It's okay to use the pictures to help.
 - » Comment on what you see and think. Encourage your child to do this too.
 - » Have fun listening for words and sounds. Enjoy songs and books that have rhymes.
 - » Talk about how the characters feel.
- Use family pictures to help your child remember and tell personal stories.
- Ask your child open-ended questions to encourage more detailed storytelling about her experiences.
 - » "What was the best part of your day?" or "What did we do first? What happened next?" "Tell me about..."



Helping Your Child Understand

- Provide natural opportunities to teach and use many basic concepts through play.
 - Play with blocks (up, down, tall, short, beside, on top)
 - Play with dolls (small, big, in, out, off, on, first, later)
 - Play with cars (fast, slow, stop, go, turn)
- Play games involving listening and following instructions that include basic concepts.
 - Simon Says**
 - Mother May I?**
 - What Time is it, Mr. Wolf?**
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes that include actions.
 - Head and Shoulders**
 - If You're Happy and You Know It**
 - The Hokey Pokey**
 - The Itsy Bitsy Spider**
- Use daily routines that can link two- and three-step instructions.
 - Bedtime routine ("Go upstairs, get into your pajamas and brush your teeth.")
- Have your child help with daily activities or chores in order to introduce new words.



Your child learns about the world around him by listening to language and thinking about what it means.





Helping Your Child Develop Social Skills

- **Play** provides natural opportunities for your child to try out new ways of thinking and talking.
- **Engage** actively in your child's play. This can be a structured game (e.g, board game; I spy) or imaginative play (e.g., dress up; building blocks).
- **Discuss** game playing (rules and turntaking) and model specific language ("Can I play with you?" ; "My turn.")
- If your child is reluctant to talk or play, create situations that motivate her to join in.
 - » Use her favourite toys, games, books and topics to support conversation and play.
 - » When playing, pause and allow your child to take the next step in familiar routines.
 - » Help her join in by modelling how to get someone's attention in a socially appropriate way.

Creating daily opportunities for unhurried conversation with your child is important. Encourage balanced turn-taking by pausing and leaning forward to let your child know you're interested in what she has to say.

Four Things To Try

- ✔ Visit the library and borrow a beautiful book
- ✔ Use time in the car to enjoy chatting together
- ✔ Explore your neighborhood and talk about what you see
- ✔ Listen to music; make up actions and sing together

