



How can I help my child with speaking and listening?

Children learn to talk because they want to communicate with people. They learn language by observing, copying and speaking with others as they attempt to make sense of their world.

You can help your child by:

- ✓ Setting aside 10-15 minutes to discuss what has happened during the day.
- ✓ Involving your child in conversations, plans and discussions.
- ✓ Ask and answer questions.
- ✓ Encouraging your child to share and talk about experiences.
- ✓ Providing a good listening model and talking with them about the topic.
- ✓ Reading to your child and talking about the print and illustrations.
- ✓ Helping your child to read home readers and talking about the title, illustrations, characters and content.
- ✓ Reading the school newsletters together and talking about the contents.
- ✓ Playing games like Scrabble or Snakes and Ladders.
- ✓ Watching and discussing television programs and DVD's.
- ✓ Making sure that meal times are talking times and encouraging all family members to participate.
- ✓ Taking an interest in what children have written at school and talking about their writing.
- ✓ Playing language games such as I Spy, rhyming words, locating signs along the road, telling jokes and riddles.
- ✓ Talking about family events or special family celebrations.
- ✓ Include the family in games which provide enjoyment and teach social skills such as taking turns, explaining rules to another player and congratulating the winner.
- ✓ Encourage your child to entertain the family with simple plays, puppet shows or jokes.
- ✓ Involve your child in planning for holidays and provide items such as road maps, travel brochures, calendars, pencil and paper.
- ✓ Encourage your child to develop a positive attitude towards speaking and listening so he/she will continue to develop confidence and willingness to share ideas, feelings and experiences.
- ✓ Talk about your experiences and activities. This will encourage your child to talk about their day.

For more ideas try.....

Google - "How can parents help develop oral language at home"