Conversation starter suggestions:
- Who did you help today? How did you help them? How did that make you feel?
- What did you need help with doing today? Do you think it’s good to ask for help?
- Tell me two things you learned or talked about today?
- What do you daydream about?
- What makes you happy, sad, angry, scared? WHY?
- What’s your favorite thing to do at home?
- Who is your best friend? Why are they your best friend?

“Ordinary, mundane daily interactions with your child are all you need to promote excellent language development.”
Golinkoff, Ph.D., 2004

EXPLORE


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“Reading does not start in school, it begins at home while being...
Benefits of Being Talked to:

- Children must first hear a word before they can say it, read it or write it
- We learn language best through social relationships
- Conversations help develop a strong oral language skills

Suggestions for Home

- Build upon your child’s interest and use it as a basis for conversation. Let it be their agenda.
- **Mealtime conversations**, talking and listening to other’s, especially around descriptions of past events and explanations, builds a larger vocabulary
- Ask your child questions to expand their story
- Parents don’t need to be the teachers of language, but they do need to be “partners” in language
- Encourage your child with positive words

Benefits of Being Read to:

- Provides knowledge for “Concepts of Print” (top/bottom, left/right, front/back)
- Children hear sounds or letters
- Stimulates curiosity & sparks imagination
- Increases vocabulary
- Provides valuable lap time

Suggestions for Home

- Children become more engaged in books with **rhythm, rhyme and repetitive language** (nursery rhymes)
- Children love to have the same books read to them **over and over again**
- Encourage conversation by commenting on illustrations and text as you read. Allow your child to talk about what they are seeing and thinking. Do they have any connections with characters, objects and events
- **Follow the words** with your finger
- Use different voices and expression

Benefits of Being Listened to:

- Strengthens a bond
- Encourages open communication
- Teaches by example
- Creates emotional awareness
- Develops social skills
- Promotes exchange of ideas

Suggestions for Home

- **Allow** your child time to express their needs, thoughts and feelings
- **Don’t take over** in conversations with your child. The more you talk, the fewer opportunities your child has to speak
- **Be patient**. Children have a lot to say, but it can take awhile for them to organize their thoughts.
- **Ask** your child questions about what they are telling you, whether it’s real or fantasy. This acknowledges that you are listening. Carry on for 2-3 exchanges—that is conversation