



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



Golinkoff, Roberta. *Einstein Never Used Flashcards.: n.p., 2004. Print.*

Wolf, Maryanne. *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain.* Cambridge: Icon, 2010. Print.

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**Reading does not start in school, it begins at home while being...**

**Talked to**  
**Read to**  
**Listened to**

"The power of language is caught, not taught."



### 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**