

Talk, Listen, and Learn

Young children are developing their ability to express themselves through language. You can help your child build vocabulary and conversation skills by talking together.

Talk about your daily routine

Say, "Let's think of all the things we will do today. First, we will eat breakfast. Next, we will put on our coats, and then we will walk to the bus stop." Encourage your child to tell you what will happen first, second, and third.



Encourage descriptions

Look around and encourage your child to describe the things he sees. Say, "Tell me about the pictures on that store window," or "Tell me about the sounds of nature you hear. Do you hear the wind rustle or the birds chirping?"



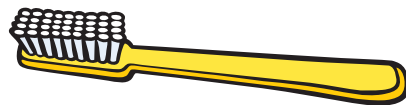
Read together

Encourage your child to describe pictures in books and magazines. Say, "Tell me what you see in the picture." Repeat what your child says and expand on her ideas. Say, "Yes, I see the tiger in the picture, too! That tiger has orange and black stripes on her fur."



Build vocabulary

Expand your child's knowledge of descriptive words. Say, "This apple is *crunchy* on my teeth and the skin is *shiny*," or "The toothbrush bristles feel *prickly* on my tongue."



KIDS Language and Literacy Development 3 – Communication and Use of Language (Expressive)

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this tip sheet are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Illinois State Board of Education.



13 Children's Research Center
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
51 Gerty Dr. • Champaign, IL 61820-7469
Telephone: 217-333-1386
Toll-free: 877-275-3227
E-mail: iel@illinois.edu
<http://illinoisearlylearning.org>

Illinois State
Board of Education