

HOW CAN WE HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP THEIR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SKILLS?

- 1. Remember, language learning should be a fun-filled adventure! Let your time reading to and talking with your child be relaxed and fun.**
- 2. Provide a good model. Keep your speech relaxed, slow and clear.**
- 3. Read books and stories to your child. This time is worth its weight in gold and you'll want to make it a part of every day.**
- 4. We don't want to put pressure on a child to pronounce words perfectly. Disapproval of speech can be interpreted wrongly by the child.**
- 5. Use indirect, rather than direct correction. If the child says, "I ran out of milk." Say something like, "Yes, I see you ran out of milk."**
- 6. If your child wants to point to things instead of say the things she wants, don't be too quick to 'understand.' Expect even young children to "use your words."**
- 7. Have lots of conversational time. Research shows that children who get this conversational time learn to read and write more easily, as well as learn to speak well.**
- 8. Having identified some error sounds in your child's speech, emphasize them a little in your own speech and while you are reading to your child. Show your child how to say 's-s-s-s' or 'r-r-r' or 'k-k-k.'**
- 9. Take your child to lots of places with you and talk about what you see, hear, smell, and do.**
- 10. Play cooperative games. "How many things to eat can we think of?" "to wear?"**
- 11. Limit TV and video game time. These don't provide communication opportunities and can have negative effects. Have fun talking and listening together!**

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