



Simple Ways to Boost Language Skills at Home

Read with Your Child Each Day

Reading with your child for 10-20 minutes is a great way to learn. Your child will learn words as you say them. Name pictures in the books and ask your child to point at them.

Narrate Your Day for Your Child

Talk about every activity before you do it, while you are doing it, and after you complete it. Use clear and simple language that your child will understand. Show your child how to make remarks about the things you do together. "We are walking to the park....We are swinging on the swings....We are going back home...."

Expand on what your child says.

Respond when your child speaks, even if it is a single sound. If your child is looking at a bird flying and says "uh", you can say "Up! The bird is flying up high in the sky." If your child is asking for a cookie and says, "Kee," you can say, "Cookie....Cookie, please."

Ask Your Child to Find Objects

This is a good way to practicing listening skills. Ask them to bring you a specific toy or favorite toy book. Guide them until this becomes an independent task. Children typically develop listening skills long before they can speak.

Learn Fun Songs and Easy Poems

Sing fun songs and learn easy poems or nursery rhymes. In addition to being good for memory and learning how to coordinate the muscles used to speak and breath, they are good tools to help your child participate in an activity that is predictable. Knowing exactly what comes next can be very empowering for children.

Take Your Child to New Places

Visit a different playground or grocery store. These types of environments are good places to practice skills they have learned in other places, and it provides new information for them to learn and about which to communicate.

Give Your Child Choices

Providing your child with choices allows them to use more than one skill at once. You may ask, "Do you want to wear the blue shirt with yellow stripes or the orange shirt with green stripes." Listening skills and responding skills are necessary. Your child may respond by gesturing, pointing, or speaking.