



TIPS TO FOSTER LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT AT HOME



READ

Read everything!

- Read labels, signs, menus, cereal boxes, etc.



Read books! Try do so once a day.

- Discuss the pictures, characters, plot.
- Make connections from the book to their own life.
- Point to the words as you read, modeling reading left to right.
- Point to the pictures and name the items on them.
- Encourage independence by letting your child choose the book.
- Read expressively. Use different voices for different characters.
- Ask your child to make predictions.
→ "What do you think will happen next?"



CHOOSING BOOKS FOR TODDLERS:

- Simple text and repetition.
- Bright and colorful illustrations.
- Familiar actions and objects.
- Multisensory! Touch features, sounds, etc.



LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Milestone Tracker App
- Child Mind Institute (childmind.org)
- New Parent Support (nct.org.uk)
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (asha.org)
- Handy Handouts (handyhandouts.com)
- TEDx Talk: Improving Early Child Development with Words by Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (youtu.be/y8qc8Aa3weE=1)
- "Fostering Language Development and Literacy in Children from Birth to Two Years Old" by Vanessa Vives



Carl Goodson Honors Program
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*For references, look at "Fostering Language Development and Literacy in Children from Birth to Two Years Old" by Vanessa Vives.

A PARENTING GUIDE ON LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

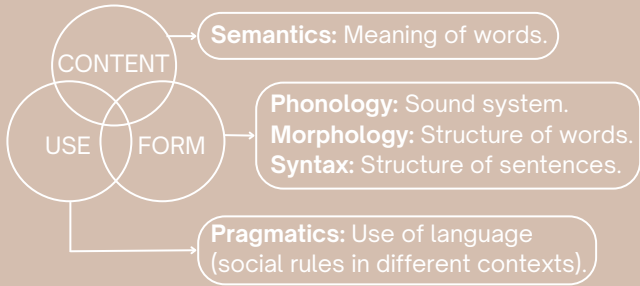


BIRTH - 2 YEARS OLD
Written by Vanessa Vives

WHAT IS LANGUAGE?



Language can be defined as the comprehension and use of oral and written symbols, including receptive (listening and reading) and expressive (speaking and writing) components. The three observable features of language are the following:*



WHAT IS LITERACY?



While language refers to a code where ideas are represented through symbols for communication, literacy refers more specifically to being proficient in reading and writing.

Listening and speaking develop *naturally* in children, BUT reading and writing need to be *taught*.*

LANGUAGE and LITERACY have a RECIPROCAL relationship.

Children who grow up in an environment that is rich with opportunities for language development, are more likely to develop literacy in an easier and more effective way.*



A DEEPER LOOK INTO LITERACY IN THE U.S.



- In 2017, the percentage of third graders in the United States with at-level literacy skills was only **46%***.
- Research shows that **one in six children**, who do not have at-level literacy skills in third grade, are **four times more likely** to not graduate from high school on time.*

⚠ THESE ARE ALARMING STATISTICS, BUT WE CAN PREVENT THEM. ⚠

HOW? → START EARLY!

Every time a child hears a word, it creates neurological connections. As connections grow stronger, so does the child's capability to learn.*

When a child does not hear a word frequently, neurons shrink and die, and therefore, minimizes the capability to learn.*

Although it may never be too late to learn, the first five years of life are **critical for neurological development**.*

TIPS TO FOSTER LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT AT HOME



COMMUNICATE

Narrate or sing routines as you go. Incorporate/reinforce vocabulary.



- Bath time or diaper changing: Mention steps.
→ *Vocabulary: Water, clean, table, open, etc.*
- Visiting the park: Talk about the sounds, colors, shapes and smells you are exposed to.



Use questioning.

- Ask open-ended questions (not only yes/no answers). Encourage them to give explanations.
- Encourage children to ask questions
→ *"Ask your friend what her favorite color is."*
- Prompt children to talk about feelings and ideas. Use questioning to guide them.
→ *"How do you feel about _____?"*

Play games that emphasize listening.

- Simon Says, Telephone, etc.



Label praise.

- Instead of just saying "good job," say "good jobs stacking all the playing cubes."

Engage your child in conversation.

- Look at them when they are talking!
- Respond to gestures.
- Model appropriate rate, volume, and tone.
- Model taking turns when speaking. Stay on topic.
- Give them time to process what you say.
- Listen. Say what they are trying to communicate.
→ *"Ohh, do you want your water bottle? Here you go."*
→ *When your baby says "Mom," say "Mom is here."*

