

# Oral Language Activities

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Oral language encompasses expressive and receptive language.



## *Ways to support oral language:*

- Maintain positive, nurturing relationships with children and engage them individually in responsive conversations throughout the day.
- Model appropriate grammar and the use of rich vocabulary.
- Use instructional dialogue that fosters thinking about words and concepts by asking questions.
- Answer children's questions and provide explanations.
- Provide real experiences that expand children's vocabulary, such as field trips in the community and exposure to various tools, objects, and materials.
- Read a variety of high-quality fiction and nonfiction books daily to individual children or small groups. Include books that positively reflect children's identity, home, language, and culture.
- Give children opportunities to actively participate after story reading by relating stories to their everyday lives and to answer analytical questions about stories.
- Provide opportunities for children to discuss stories, hear repeated readings of stories, retell familiar stories, act out stories, and create their own stories. (See Multiple Readings of Narrative Book Planning Sheet).
- Encourage communication among children by helping them learn to take turns listening and talking to one another and use language to solve problems.
- Respect the culture and language of children who are learning English as a second language by encouraging families to maintain their home language while also learning to speak and read English.

*Considerations for children with **special needs**:*

- Determine what the individual child needs in terms of modification of receiving information, processing information, and/or sharing information.
- Give children opportunities to use augmentative communication aides and strategies such as symbols, pictures, and communication displays to provide them with independence in expression.
- Be sure to include enough wait time after asking a question so that children can make a response back (count to five).
- Respond to children's actions and communications (for example, by describe what children did: imitating, acknowledging, restating).

ORAL LANGUAGE RESOURCES