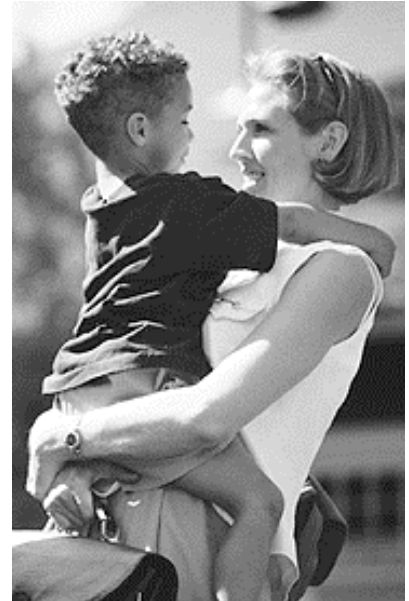




Talk . . . Talk . . . Talk!

Children with larger vocabularies experience greater success in school. Spending time in conversation with your child helps develop that vocabulary.

When riding in the car, ask your child to tell you what he sees. At the grocery store, talk about the different kinds of fruits, guessing how they grow and wondering how they taste. At the gas station, talk about the different kinds of vehicles and guess where people are going. This is how vocabulary is built.



Families Can Help ...

- Encourage children to **express their thoughts and feelings**. “I was mad when . . .”
- Provide opportunities for your child to **talk in social situations** with adults and other children. For example, at the dinner table say, “Tell me about what you did at school today.”
- Seek out your **child’s opinion**. For example ask, “What do you think we need to do?”
- Talk daily about **everyday events and activities**. “Today we will . . .”
- **Use descriptive language**. If your child says, “That’s a dog,” respond, “Yes, that is a big, yellow dog. It is a Labrador.”
- **Ask open-ended questions** when reading or having conversations with your child. These are questions that require more than a yes or no response. Open-ended questions sound like, “What do you think will happen?” “How do you think that works?” or “Tell me about ...”
- **Set an example for good speech and language**. Use complete sentences and pronounce words correctly. (Your child will copy you.)
- **Support children’s use of gestures**, communication devices, sign language, and pictures as needed to communicate if your child has not begun to use words. Language develops at a different rate for individual children.
- Encourage children to **speak the language used in the home**.

Source: Foundations, NC Department of Public Instruction