



Talking Is Teaching

How to enhance your child's language by tuning in and talking, and by keeping conversations going.

Unplug and Tune In

WHY

Being available to stop what you're doing to talk with your child makes your child feel valued and loved. Face-to-face communication between parents and children is important for developing language.

HOW

When your child approaches you with questions, stop and listen, make eye contact, and respond promptly to your child. Read books, sing songs, and play games together. Be silly, tell jokes, and laugh a lot to connect with your child. Take a break from technology and spend quality time with your child.

Keep the Conversation Going

WHY

Children are observing how to communicate with others through everyday conversations. To understand how a conversation works, children need many opportunities to learn to listen to others and take turns talking.

HOW

STOP and look for frequent opportunities to talk. PAUSE and patiently wait for your child to respond. STRIVE for FIVE back and forth talking turns between you and your child by asking questions, making comments, or repeating and adding details, etc.

Adapted from Children's Learning Institute