

Language is Everywhere!

Oral language skills can be worked on at any time, while doing everyday things. We can work on oral language travelling in a vehicle, having a bath, during a meal, grocery shopping, running errands, or even doing the laundry.

Words are everywhere and act as the building blocks of language. The more words children can use and understand the better success they will have with listening comprehension, reading comprehension, and writing skills.

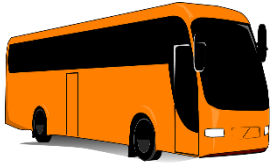
Grocery Shopping



- When you're at the grocery store, take the time to label food items, food groups and nutrition. (e.g., that's a dragonfruit and it is a fruit, it's a nutritious snack)
- Turn it into a game, see how many items you can find that are the colour red and label those items.
- Talk about what you think these items could be used for (e.g., wow look at these pumpkins, I wonder what we could make with a pumpkin? Maybe some pumpkin pie)
- These items can be related to our senses: how does it smell, taste, look, feel, sound?
- Talk about the colour, shape, texture, size, function, category, parts, beginning sound (e.g., a banana is long, smooth, soft, yellow, sweet, it grows on a tree, and it is for eating, the word banana starts with the letter 'b')

Travelling

Children are often in a car or bus, going to and from school, daycare, etc. These moments are full of opportunities to build oral language.



- Sing songs while in the car, or play a game like “eye spy”
- Discuss or point out the things you see along the way. For example, the street signs (look at the stop sign up ahead, it’s in the shape of an octagon, it has the colours red and white, there is the word

‘stop’ written on it, when we see this sign we must come to a complete stop. Let’s see if we can find any other signs.

- Talk about places you’ve visited like a park, the library, a convenience store or a restaurant.

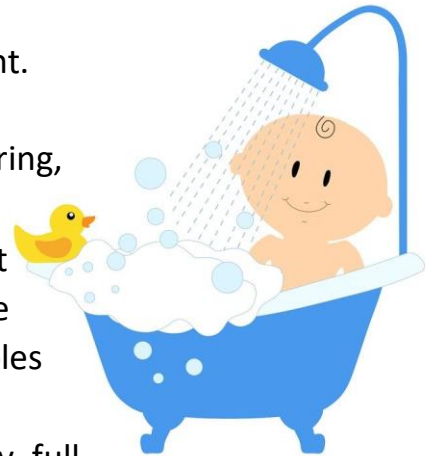


Bath Time

Bath time is usually a really fun time for most kids.

This makes it a great opportunity for language development.

- Some great words to use during bath time include: splashing, washing, scrubbing, rinsing, dripping, pouring, floating, sinking and drying up
- This is also a great time to talk about all the different body parts “don’t forget to scrub your feet and rinse your hair”, “wash those earlobes”, “you’ve got bubbles on your ankles and wrists”
- Use words like hot, cold, wet, dry, clean, dirty, empty, full, slippery to talk about what is happening “be careful the bathtub gets slippery when it gets wet”



- This is a great time to talk about the things that are in the bathroom, like the faucet, drain and what their purpose or function is.
- Bath time is also a great time to use prepositions, “wash **between** your toes, and **under** your arms” “wrap the towel **around** your body”, “put the towel **in** the hamper when you’re all dried up”. Using these phrases help children understand concepts to help them follow directions.

Laundry Time



Laundry is something that unfortunately we can not avoid. Why not turn it into an opportunity to spend time talking with your child?

- Have your children help to sort the laundry. You can start a conversation by talking about how things are same or different, “look these shirts are the same they both have, stripes, but one is small because it’s yours and this one is large because it’s mine”, “these pants are both blue but one is light blue and the other in dark blue”.
- Different parts of speech can be addressed such as, pronouns (e.g., “my pants, your pants”), plurals (e.g., “one glove, two gloves”), concepts (e.g., who has more/less dirty clothing; these pants are big/little)
- You can discuss the sequence you must follow when doing laundry, e.g., “First we sort the laundry into like colours, then we put one of the piles into the machine, I wonder what we would need to do next?” see if your child continues the conversation e.g., “we need to add some soap”.

Meal Time

Children can become helpers in the kitchen. Helping with mealtime is a great opportunity for conversations.



- Have your child gather some of the ingredients needed for the meal. For example “I’ll get the milk and you get the blender”
- Talk about the utensils needed as well as things that are found around the kitchen e.g., whisk, frying pan, ladle, oven.
- Talk about the actions that are taking place while you are cooking. Example, “I am pouring the milk into a bowl, then we will blend in two eggs”
- Label the action words as you use them. Things like blending, stirring, pouring, baking, frying, melting, cutting and chopping.



- Have your child share with someone else how they helped prepare the meal.
- Together talk about how the food relates to the senses: how it looks, tastes, feel, smells. For example, “This bean is green and crunchy. It is tasty!”

In the Community

Whether you go for a walk, have to pop into the bank, go play at the park, go mail a letter, or have to go to a doctor's appointment, there are opportunities for conversation everywhere.



- While you're running errands at the bank, post office, or at a doctor's appointment, have your child come along. All of these places provide different opportunities to talk about new terms and allows them to learn about places in the community. You can explain where you will be going and what happens there. All the people who work in these places have different titles that can be introduced to your child as well (e.g., Doctor, secretary, postman, bank teller)



- As you travel through your community talk about what is happening around you, what can be seen and heard. For example, while on a walk and coming across some construction you can say "that cement

truck is pouring cement onto the ground, I wonder what they will be building here?"

- While at the park, comment on what your child is doing. Label their actions with words like: climbing, swinging, jumping, digging, throwing, running, leaping, hopping, sliding, catching and spinning.

