

GETTING READY TO LEARN



“Words build my brain.”



Key Messages

- ⇒ Talking to your child builds language and communication skills. The more you talk the better.
- ⇒ You can talk with your child anywhere, anytime, about anything!
- ⇒ When children hear more words and lots of different words, it improves their understanding of language. It also increases the number and variety of words that they understand and use.
- ⇒ Talking with children helps their brain develop and can help them do better at school.
- ⇒ Help your child learn about conversation by pausing and giving your child time to respond
- ⇒ Reading, songs and rhymes are all good for developing a child’s language.
- ⇒ Six year-olds should have a vocabulary of about 14,000 words—therefore our 3 and 4 year olds are learning about 8 new words per day!
- ⇒ Reduce distractions. Turn off the television or computer and get down to their level.

Tips To Try

1. Naming words
car, dog, house, pram

2. Action Words
drive, run, jump

3. Describing Words
big, hot, old, bright, sweet

- ⇒ Use different sorts of words to help build your child’s vocabulary
- ⇒ Ask Questions about eg car —CAR (what is it?), RED (what colour is it?), DRIVE (what does it do?), FAST (how does it do that?)
- ⇒ Talk about what they are interested in—notice what they are doing, listen to their response and reply to them
- ⇒ Use lots of expression to make your conversations interesting and engaging. What you talk about doesn’t matter as much as how you talk about it.
- ⇒ If you use complex words, explain them and build on them by using lots of descriptive words eg we are going to the vets—that’s a special person who looks after sick animals.
- ⇒ Help you child experience that books and reading are fun. Create a special reading spot, make cuddles part of reading time and let your child choose a book.
- ⇒ Regularly sing songs and rhymes to your child such as in the car, in the bath, when out on a walk.
- ⇒ Chat about everyday experiences to introduce new words to your child—a trip to the shops, visiting friends, hanging out the washing.
- ⇒ Engage you child by sharing a story as this is a great way to encourage talking. If you child is feeling sad, tell them how you or someone else was able to manage their emotions. At bedtime ask your child about what they are looking forward to tomorrow.
- ⇒ Ask open-ended questions, they are a key way to enhance conversations with your pre-schooler as they won’t be able to answer just Yes or No. An example would be - What was the best part of your day?
- ⇒ Keep talk positive!