



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

24 Ways

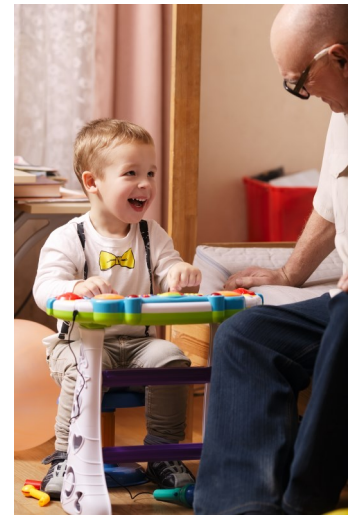
to Boost Your Child's Language Skills



Children who can talk, listen, read, and write do better in school and feel more sure of themselves. Here's how you can help.

- 1) Tell your children stories told to you as a child.
- 2) While grocery shopping, talk about what foods you're buying and why.
- 3) Have them help you make a meal. Talk about what you are doing and why. Show recipes to children.
- 4) Be quiet for a moment. Ask them what they hear.
- 5) Let them open and look at "junk" mail.
- 6) Enjoy books together. You don't have to teach children how to read. Reading aloud with them will make them want to read.
- 7) Have them tell you about what happened during their day.
- 8) Let them write. It may not always look right to you but it is how they learn.
- 9) Visit the library to pick out books together.
- 10) Let them play dress-up and pretend. They talk a lot while acting "grown-up."
- 11) Let them draw and paint. Ask about their pictures.
- 12) Use television wisely. Know what they watch and why. Children read and play more when they watch less television.

- 13) Put books in places they can reach. Let them pick up a book and look through it at any time.
- 14) Have children act out a favorite story or book.
- 15) Listen to stories they make up.
- 16) Listen when they talk.
- 17) Plan a family reading time. People can read on their own or out loud together.
- 18) Tape-record common sounds. Play them back and see if children can tell what the sounds are.
- 19) Make up stories together. You can start the story. Let them add the next sentence or two. Then take your turn again.
- 20) Sing songs and nursery rhymes together.
- 21) Let them write letters to friends and relatives.
- 22) Read traffic signs, store names and billboards with children.
- 23) Let children play with puppets.
- 24) Be a good model by reading yourself. Let children know you like to read. Show some eagerness for reading.



Start young if you can; start now if you can't.

Prepared by Dan Weigel, Area Human Development Specialist
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