

# You Are Your Child's First Teacher

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Many simple everyday occurrences provide excellent opportunities to enhance your child's development. Never underestimate the value of even 15 minutes of quality time spent with your child. Remember, you are your child's first teacher!

## Talk! Talk! Talk!

From the time of birth, talking to your child has a big impact because language exchange is important to your child's language development.

Here are some tips to encourage your child's use of language:

- Place a favorite toy out of reach.
- Give the child a cookie and give friend 2 cookies.
- Say rhymes and let the child fill in the rhyming word.
- Encourage counting items.

## Read! Read! Read!

Story reading or story telling is important, as this activity helps the child know the typical pattern of events that one expects to hear in a story.

Here are some tips to encourage your child's use of literacy:

- Talk about the front of the book, the top of the page. Point to words.
- Play games with sounds.
- If a book has too many words, tell the story more simply.
- Play rhyming games.
- Encourage proper pronunciation of words.
- Print names and words familiar to the child's environment.

Additionally:

- Give individual attention for five or ten minutes.
- Be a good listener.
- Follow your child's lead for conversation and enjoyable interaction.

When your child shows interest in the alphabet or conversation, follow your child's lead. Be creative and use things that are funny and familiar. After all, you are your child's first teacher!