

# The Power of Talking With Your Child

**Talk, talk, talk, talk. Starting at birth, children need to hear thousands of words each day to be ready to speak, read, and learn.**

Talk naturally and use a lot of different words. Model conversations when you talk with your child. Listen to your child's coos or words and respond. Ask questions. Point out colors, shapes, numbers, and objects. Describe to your child what you're doing. Give your child options. Praise your child frequently. Have fun and be silly.

The number of words a child hears at home makes a difference. Aim to speak with your child about 30 times per hour. The greater the number of words a child hears before the age 3, the better he or she will do in school. It's never too late to start!



**“Becoming a strong reader begins at birth. The cornerstones of reading success - language, knowledge, and curiosity - should be cultivated from infancy, and in every setting.”**

*Turning the Page* by Nonie K. Lesaux, PhD



## Fill Your Day With Conversation