

Area 2

Language

A child learns to speak by hearing others talk. The greater the language use in the home and school, the more opportunities a child has to learn language. As a parent or teacher, you can help develop language skills by responding to a child when he/she speaks and expanding on what a child says. Talk about what you are doing in daily activities, explain new experiences, and model correct language.

Listening Skills

A child's listening skills typically develop before his/her speaking skills. Listening skills begin at birth as a child reacts to various environmental sounds. Soon, a child begins to discriminate between various pitches, volumes, and qualities of sounds. Around age one, a child responds to specific words.

Vocabulary Skills

Between the ages of one and two years, a child discovers that names stand for things. Following this realization, vocabulary explodes and typically grows from 200-300 words at two years of age to about 3,000 words by age six.

Speaking Skills

Around two years of age, a child creates two-word utterances to express thoughts. By age three, three words are put together and by age four, a child can give an account of a recent experience. By age five, a child can engage in a conversation with others.

Body Parts Identification Skills

From infancy on, a baby explores his/her body and learns about capabilities, contours, and the space it occupies. At the same time, a child learns the names of various body parts.

Suggested Items

- picture book(s)
- toys
- box(es)
- telephone (play or real)

Similar items may be substituted.