



Keep the Conversation Going!

There is no better time for your child to learn new vocabulary than during her everyday conversations with you. Researchers have found that the more parents talk with their child, the more words the child learns. The key to building language competence is encouraging them to engage in conversations!

Here are some conversation tips:

- Give your child a chance to initiate so they have an interest in what you will talk about.
- Get face to face to notice expressions and body language that goes along with the words.
- Make a comment and wait for your child to take another turn. Keep it going back and forth.
- Follow up a comment with a genuine question.

Be careful of these conversation stoppers:

- A one sided running commentary. Stop talking!
- Too many questions. (sounds like testing!)

Provided by: *Ontario Early Years Literacy Specialists*