

Some of the ways we can foster language development are to:

1. Read or say nursery rhymes to your child so they can hear the rhythm and flow of our language.
2. Sing simple songs with them.
3. Use body language in songs, stories, and in everyday activities (shrug your shoulders, shake your head, etc.)
4. Name objects as you both look at them and...
 - Set out a group of common objects and have your child name them and discuss different attributes (size, color, weight, shape).
 - Name and touch body parts using rhymes, games, and songs.
 - Group and name objects that go together.
 - Ask your child riddles - children love to guess the answer.
5. Introduce new words...
 - Through stories.
 - Through looking at magazines together and discussing them.
 - On neighborhood walks.
 - By making word cards with a word and its picture.
 - Through lotto games (picture Bingo games found at children's gift stores).
 - On signs in your environment.
6. Engage in one-to-one conversations between you and your child in which you...
 - Model correct pronunciation and grammar (Don't always correct your child, simply restate their words using correct language. They will learn slowly but surely.)
 - Model using complete sentences.
 - Model listening and responding to each other.
 - Model how to ask a question and how to answer.
7. Engage in conversations about their likes and dislikes.
8. Tell simple stories which involve the children responding.
9. Read favorite stories over and over and then let your child tell them to you.
10. Ask lots of open-ended questions (questions which cause them to think and which require more than a yes or no answer - for example: "How did you make that picture?").
11. Play with your child and talk as you play...
 - In the house.
 - Outside.
 - Using objects you have found to stimulate imaginative situations.

- Fill a box with objects and ask the child to tell who might own them (ex. a pizza wheel, spatula, fake pizza ingredients, pizza pan), then play with them.
12. Encourage writing activities.
- Record your child's favorite _____ (color, shape, animal, activity) and reread their answer to them later.
 - Begin writing a poem and have them help you rhyme it.
 - Have children predict what will happen in a certain situation and record it later, follow up and see if the predictions came true.
 - .
13. Model using words with sounds your child has a problem saying.
- Play word games using the sound.
 - Each time you hear a word with the sound, you both repeat it.
 - Notice when the sound is used correctly; do not notice incorrect usage.