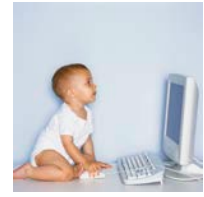




Parents are their child's first teacher



Many simple everyday events provide an excellent chance to improve 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. With the first babbles, language exchange is important to your child's language development.

- Talk about your surroundings: things familiar to your child's world.
- Name what you see in the house; as you ride in the car; and as you shop in stores.
- Listen to what your child is trying to talk about and follow their lead
- Talk about everything around you and respond with sentences using any words the child contributes.
- Play games with the alphabet to introduce new letters.

Read, Read, Read

If a book has too many words, tell the story more simply, in your own words. You may need to begin by talking about the pictures.

- Read as long as the child's attention lasts. Be ready to read the same book over again and again.
- Talk about the front of the book, the top of the page. Point to the words.
- Play games with sounds. This is very important to your child's reading development.

The most important thing is consistent, daily quality interaction. Your child needs to see that reading is important to you, that reading is an enjoyable experience, and that it is worth the hard work that it may require.