



TALK ABOUT LANGUAGE TOGETHER

Listen to families

Ask families about the ways their child uses language at home—does their child talk a lot or a little? What does their child like to talk about? Does the family speak more than one language? Encourage families to bring examples from home—in English or in their home language—of their child’s writing, drawing, or favorite songs. Information that families share can help you individualize instruction.

Share with families

Talk with families about the different ways they help their child learn new words, express ideas and emotions, and have conversations where their child learns the back-and-forth nature of talking with others. Celebrate with families the ways their child is learning. Let families know that when they continue to use their home language, they will also help their child develop English language skills.

Conversation starters

- What languages does your family speak at home? Which language do you use more with your child? When did your child start learning English?
- What do you notice about how your child talks? Does your child speak in complete sentences? Pronounce words correctly? Surprise you with new words?
- Does your child enjoy stories, reading, or singing?
- What is your child interested in or curious about?
- How do you help your child learn new words and share ideas clearly?
- Do you have any questions about your child’s language development?
- Do you have any ideas for me in working with your child?

