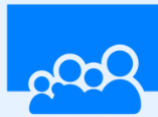


Language

Families and teachers: the early childhood and primary school curricula use different strategies to help children develop their language skills.

You can support young children's language development while playing, or while watching educational shows like *Sesame Street* together.



Watch together

Talk together while you're watching *Sesame Street* or other educational content with children.

Describe

- For children who aren't speaking, describe what you notice or ask them to point or gesture.
- Even when they can't talk back, infants and non-verbal children are taking in and understanding what you're saying and developing their vocabulary. They're also using gestures, expressions or sounds to respond.
- Verbal children can describe what they see. Primary school children can use additional descriptive words or gestures and build on context clues as they talk about what they notice.
- You can do this with episodes without words too like *Me Want Cookie* or *Magical Car Races*.
- You can also ask children to predict what they think might happen next or what they think happened right before.



Play and learn together

Play and talk

- While you're playing, have back and forth exchanges where you ask a question then wait for them to respond using words, sounds, gestures or facial expressions. Then, continue the conversation by responding and asking another question.
- Use real words instead of baby talk to help children develop their vocabulary and learn to pronounce words.

Get creative

- Make up stories or describe what you see while on errands. For example, "I see the large red truck in front of us. What do you think the truck is doing?"
- Pre-school and primary school children can be inspired by episodes like *Elmo the Musical* or their own imaginations and interests to make up plays, musicals, dub poems, songs, or find other ways to express themselves.



Talk together

Point out things you notice and ask children different types of questions to encourage them to answer with one or more words while you play together.

Even children who aren't speaking can communicate through sounds and body language.

- Point to the ____.
- Would you like to eat a mango or an orange?
- Why do you think ____?
- Where is the ____?
- What do you think would happen if ____?



Links to Sesame Street content

On YouTube

- ✓ [“Let's Make Up A Story”](#) can help guide you as you make up a story together.

Visit [Sesame Workshop](#)

for many more related activities, printables, and video-based suggestions like:

- ✓ [“Building and Rebuilding Language Skills - and Community”](#)
- ✓ [“Learning Through Routines”](#)
- ✓ [“Learning Through Play”](#)

to play online games like:

- ✓ [“Words are Everywhere”](#)
- ✓ [“Word Play”](#)



Links to find out more together

Local resources

- ✓ [The Ministry of Education's Game-Based & Interactive Learning Activities for Early Years](#)
- ✓ [Curricular resources](#) like the Resource Book and curriculum guides from the Early Childhood Commission
- ✓ Digital library Book Fusion has free books <https://www.bookfusion.com/libraries/MO EYI>
- ✓ Talk together while reading books like [I Can Do My Part](#) (<https://bit.ly/icandomypart>) and [I Have Feelings](#) (<https://bit.ly/ihavefeelings>)
- ✓ [Reach Up and Learn Parent Manual: Activities for Children Up to Age 3 Years](#)

Other resources

- ✓ [The Hanen Centre](#) has language development resources
- ✓ [Global Digital Library](#) has 6,000 + free books in over 83 languages (<https://digitallibrary.io/>)
- ✓ [Room to Read's](#) free digital library (<https://literacycloud.org/>)