

MAKE TIME TO TALK

From the National Institute for Literacy

T i n y T o t P r e s c h o o l P a r e n t N e w s l e t t e r

S e t t i n g C h i l d r e n U p f o r S u c c e s s i n S c h o o l a n d L i f e

We know it's important to talk to our children using the kind of speech that builds language and thinking skills.

The phrase MAKE TIME TO TALK is a good reminder of what we can do when talking to our children. We help them learn new vocabulary and how to use language to express their ideas, needs and emotions.

M. . Mealtime is a good opportunity for conversations with children.

A. . Ask questions that encourage your child to think-questions involving analysis, prediction and imagination.

K. . Kneel, sit or squat to have eye contact with your child.

E Extend your conversation with your child. Conversations should go back and forth.

T. . Take the time to introduce new words and help your little one remember the meanings of new words through stories or games.

I. . . Involve the entire family in conversation.

M. . Make connections with books you have read to build meanings.

E. . Expand language by repeating words and using descriptive words, add or build on your child's ideas.

T. . . . Two way conversation mean that your child should be doing at least half the talking.

O. . . Observe your child's play and introduce new words.

T. . . Text....all kinds...books, posters, newspapers, signs provide an opportunity to talk and expand language. Read with your child and ask questions, have a discussion.

A. . . . Act out stories, re-using words from the book.

I. . . . Language should include rich, varied vocabulary that build on experiences.

K.Keep the conversation going through questions, expansions and comments.

Happy Talk!



O t h e r r e s o u r c e s o n t h e i m p o r t a n c e t o t a l k w i t h y o u r c h i l d r e n

- *Talking with kids:*

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/>

- *25 Ways to Talk so Children Will Listen*

<http://www.askdrsears.com/topics/parenting/discipline-behavior/25-ways-talk-so-children-will-listen>

- *Winning Ways to Talk With Young Children*

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/publications/22-649.pdf>