



Strengthening Oral Language

The very best way to strengthen children's oral language and vocabulary is to talk to them and to listen to them, engaging in conversations with them throughout the day. Before children can understand words, they respond to human voices. Before children can speak, they use and imitate body language, including facial expressions. Therefore, talking to children while making exaggerated movements and facial expressions to communicate what you are saying is a key ingredient in promoting language. Even infants can begin to imitate sounds and body language!

From the time children say their first word until they are three, children learn words and how to put words together at an amazing speed. So, it is crucial to talk to your child throughout the day, as well as give them consistent opportunities to express themselves using their newly acquired language skills.

Do this by:

- Getting down on your child's level and making eye contact.
- Giving your child your full attention and sufficient time to express themselves.
- Saying the correct form of the words and elaborating on your child's comment: "Datcah . . . datcah! Me, me!" "Yes, Michelle, you were playing with that car and you want it back."

Phonological Awareness

The ability to hear similar and different sounds and to hear the patterns in oral language is called phonological awareness. This is a very important skill for reading. Before children develop phonological awareness in preschool, they develop sound awareness in the infant and toddler years. This is the first step toward phonological awareness.

Do this by:

- Singing songs
- Dancing to music
- Listening to nursery rhymes
- Fingerplays

Did you know? Quantity counts!

- The more words young children hear, the more language they will learn.
- Children who have heard lots and lots of language when they are infants and toddlers will enter kindergarten with bigger vocabularies.
- A strong oral language vocabulary is connected to successfully learning to read



Story Time

Reading books and sharing stories with children stimulates a love of books and a motivation to read. We want children to connect positive feelings of wonder, delight, comfort, and excitement with books and stories.

Do this by:

- Reading books with and without words
- Reading books with pictures & telling stories by heart
- Asking questions and encouraging them to tell you what they think will happen next
- Acting out stories with your child (Your child can be the wolf and you can be the 3 little pigs!)

Language and literacy is one of the most valuable and enduring gifts you can give to your child.

Songs, Rhymes, & Fingerplays!

Aiken Drum

There was a man lived in the moon,
In the moon, in the moon.

There was a man lived in the moon,
And his name was Aiken Drum.

And he played upon a ladle,
A ladle, a ladle.

He played upon a ladle,
And his name was Aiken Drum.

And his hair was made of spaghetti,
Spaghetti, spaghetti.

His hair was made of spaghetti,
And his name was Aiken Drum.

And his eyes were made of meatballs,
Meatballs, meatballs.

His eyes were made of meatballs,
And his name was Aiken Drum.

And his nose was made of cheese,
Cheese, cheese.

His nose was made of cheese,
And his name was Aiken Drum.

And his mouth was made of pizza,
Pizza, pizza.

His mouth was made of pizza,
And his name was Aiken drum.

And he played upon a ladle,
A ladle, a ladle.

He played upon a ladle,
And his name was Aiken Drum.

There was a man lived in the moon,
In the moon, in the moon.

There was a man lived in the moon,
And his name was Aiken Drum.

The Alphabet Song

A - B - C - D - E - F - G,
H - I - J - K - L - M - N - O - P,
Q - R - S - T - U - V - W - X - Y and Z.
Now I've sung my ABCs,
Next time won't you sing with me?

The Ants Go Marching

The ants go marching one by one,
hurrah, hurrah.

The ants go marching one by one,
hurrah, hurrah.

The ants go marching one by one,
The little one stops to suck his thumb.

And they all go marching down
To the ground

To get out of the rain.
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Continue with these verses:

...two...tie her shoe...

...three...climb a tree...

...four...shut the door...

...five...take a dive...

Apples and Bananas

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas.

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas.

I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and
bay-nay-nays.

I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and
bay-nay-nays.

I like eet, eet, eet ee-ples and
bee-nee-nees.

I like eet, eet, eet ee-ples and
bee-nee-nees.

I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and by-by-nys.

I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and by-by-nys.

I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and
bo-no-nos.

I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and
bo-no-nos.

I like to ute, ute, uu-pples and bununus.

I like to ute, ute, ute uu-pples and bununus.

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas.

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas!

April Clouds

Two little clouds one April day,
(hold both hands in fists)

Went sailing across the sky.

(move fists from left to right)

They went so fast that they bumped
their heads, *(bump fists together)*

And both began to cry. *(point to eyes)*

The big round sun came out and said,
(make circle with arms)

"Oh, never mind, my dears,

I'll send all my sunbeams down

(wiggle fingers downward like rain)

To dry your fallen tears."

Are You Sleeping?

Are you sleeping?

Are you sleeping?

Brother John, Brother John?

Morning bells are ringing,
Morning bells are ringing.
Ding! Ding! Dong!
Ding! Ding! Dong!

Autumn Leaves

Autumn leaves are falling, falling,
falling. *(move from standing position
to squatting)*

Autumn leaves are spinning, spinning,
spinning. *(stand and turn)*

Autumn leaves are floating, floating,
floating. *(sway side to side)*

Autumn leaves are turning, turning,
turning. *(turn slowly)*

Autumn leaves are dancing, dancing,
dancing. *(stand on toes, sway forward
and back)*

Autumn leaves are blowing, blowing,
blowing. *(take several steps forward)*

Autumn leaves are falling, falling,
falling. *(squat)*

Autumn leaves are sleeping, sleeping,
sleeping. *(place hands together on
side of face)*

Baa, Baa Black Sheep

Baa, Baa black sheep, have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.
One for the master and one for the dame,
And one for the little boy who lives
down the lane.

Baby Bumblebee

I caught myself a baby bumblebee.
Won't my mommy be so proud of me?
I caught myself a baby bumblebee.
Ouch! He stung me!
I'm talking to my baby bumblebee.
Won't my mommy be so proud of me?
I'm talking to my baby bumblebee.
"Oh," he said, "I'm sorry."
I'm letting go my baby bumblebee.
Won't my mommy be so proud of me?
I'm letting go my baby bumblebee.
Look! He's happy to be free!

Baby Mice

Where are the baby mice?
Squeak, squeak, squeak.
(hide your hand behind your back)

I cannot see them peek, peek, peek.
(bring your fist forward)

Here they come out of their hole.
One, two, three, four, five, and that is all.
(open your fingers one at a time)

Be Very Quiet

Shhh! Be very quiet.
Shhh! Be very still.
Fold your busy little hands,
Close your sleepy little eyes.
Shhh! Be very quiet.

The Bear Went Over the Mountain

The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
To see what he could see.
To see what he could see,
To see what he could see.
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
Was all that he could see.
Was all that he could see,
Was all that he could see,
The other side of the mountain,
Was all that he could see!

Bears Eat Honey

Bears eat honey. Cows eat corn.
What do you eat when you get up in
the morn?
Monkeys eat bananas. Cows eat corn.
What do you eat when you get up in
the morn?
Baby eats oatmeal, cows eat corn.
What do you eat when you get up in
the morn?

Beehive & Anthill

Here is the beehive.
(hold fist right hand outward)
Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Soon they come buzzing
Out of the hive...
One! Two! Three! Four! Five!
(extend fingers, one at a time)

(continues)

8 Songs, Rhymes, & Fingerplays!

Don't forget
to add hand motions
for extra fun and
emphasis on language
when singing or
saying rhymes!

Songs, Rhymes, & Fingerplays!

(continued)

Once I saw an anthill
(hold fisted left hand outward)
With no ants about.
So I said, "Oh, little ants,
Won't you please come out?"

And then as if by magic,
It seemed they heard my call,
'Cause One! Two! Three! Four!
Five came out!
(Extend fingers, one at a time)
And that was all!

A Bicycle Built for Two

Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do.
I'm half-crazy all for the love of you.
It won't be a stylish marriage.
I can't afford a carriage.
But you'll look sweet upon the seat,
Of a bicycle built for two.

Big and Small

I can make myself real big,
(stand up on toes)
By standing up straight and tall.
But when I'm tired of being big,
I can make myself get small.
(stoop down)

The Big Bass Drum

Oh! We can play on the big bass drum,
And this is the way we do it:
Rub-a-dub, boom, goes the big
bass drum,
And this is the way we do it.
Oh! We can play on the violin,
And this is the way we do it:
Zum, zum, zin, says the violin,
Rub-a-dub, boom, goes the big bass drum,
And this is the way we do it.
Oh! We can play on the little flute,
And this is the way we do it:
Tootle, toot, toot, says the little flute,
Zum, zum, zin, goes the violin
Rub-a-dub, boom, goes the big bass drum.
And this is the way we do it.

Big Gray Pussy Cat

The big gray pussy cat, pussy cat,
pussy cat,

The big gray pussy cat is sitting on
the steps.
The big gray pussy cat, pussy cat,
pussy cat,
The big gray pussy cat says, "Meow."

B-I-N-G-O

There was a farmer had a dog,
And Bingo was his name-o!
B-I-N-G-O
B-I-N-G-O
B-I-N-G-O
And Bingo was his name-o!

Birds

If I were a bird,
I'd sing a song,
And fly about the whole day long.
And when the night came,
Go to rest
Up in my cozy little nest.

Birthday Candles

Birthday candles one-two-three.
(hold up fingers on the count)
Birthday candles just for me!
(point to self)
Last year two, next year four.
(hold up two fingers on left hand
and four fingers on right)
Birthday candles I want more!
(hold up ten fingers)

Biscuits in the Oven

Biscuits in the oven, gonna watch 'em rise.
Biscuits in the oven, gonna watch 'em rise.
Biscuits in the oven, gonna watch 'em rise.
Right before my very eyes!
When they get ready, gonna jump
and shout.
When they get ready, gonna jump
and shout.
When they get ready, gonna jump
and shout.
Roll my eyes and bug them out! Hey, hey!
Gonna clap my hands and stomp my feet!
Gonna clap my hands and stomp my feet!
Gonna clap my hands and stomp my feet!
Right before the very next beat! Hey, hey!
Repeat first verse.