

EXPANDING THEIR WORLDS

TIPS FOR TALKING WITH YOUR PRESCHOOLER

From 3 to 5 years of age, your child's world is quickly expanding with new people, activities, and settings. Your daily, small conversations together help them understand and navigate what they're experiencing and prepare them for the transition to learning in school. These tips are drawn from strong scientific evidence linking key oral language skills to later social, emotional, thinking and literacy skills. The conversations that come from them will help your child grow and thrive!

TRY!

HAVE LONGER CONVERSATIONS

WHY?

Build even longer conversations together, especially about things in the past and future.

Talking about the past and future helps build abstract thinking and learning skills for topics outside your child's immediate experiences.

TRY!

EXPLAIN THINGS

WHY?

Give more detailed answers to your child's 'how' and 'why' questions or try to find the answer together if you're not sure.

Your explanations help your child learn more in-depth knowledge about a topic and practice how to figure things out.

TRY!

NOTICE NEW WORDS

WHY?

When you and your child see or hear new words, explain or show what they mean.

Learning new words helps children understand more complex meanings, concepts, and ideas.

TRY!

PLAY WITH PEERS

WHY?

Give your child opportunities to play with other children. Let children create, build, and discover things on their own.

Talking with peers builds different social, emotional, and conversational skills than talking with adults.

TRY!

EXPAND THEIR WORLD THROUGH BOOKS

WHY?

Explore wordless books, picture books, and informational books to find and learn about topics that spark your child's interest.

Reading, re-reading, and noticing details in the illustrations of different books creates a comforting space where you and your child can talk together about different topics in more depth.

TRY!

THINK ALOUD WHILE READING

WHY?

While reading a story and looking at its illustrations, talk about what you, your child, or the story characters might be thinking about or feeling.

Thinking out loud helps your child learn about different perspectives and practice making predictions and inferences to understand more complex stories.

TRY!

MATCHING LETTERS AND SOUNDS

WHY?

Notice letters and their sounds in your everyday routines. Begin by focusing on the first sound in words.

Helping children to recognize letters and their sounds will prepare them for reading and writing.

TRY!

SUPPORT SCRIBBLING

WHY?

Talk about what your child is writing or drawing and what it means to them.

Colouring and scribbling help develop fine motor skills needed for later writing and teaches children about the connection between spoken and written language.