



Ready *for*
Pre-K!

What is Language Development?

- Expressing wants, needs, and ideas
- Using verbal and non-verbal communication
- Understanding spoken language
- Understanding visual communication
- Following simple directions

Why is it important?

Children with a strong foundation in language are better able to recognize and express emotions, make friends, follow routines and directions, comprehend stories and lessons, problem-solve, and understand early literacy concepts.



What can you do to help?

Modeling language use and effective communication for young children is powerful. Talk with your child throughout the day and engage in back and forth conversation! Expose them to a variety of words by playing, singing, and reading stories! Take time to respond when your child says something to you or shows you something that interests them.

Visit our Website



Tips for Supporting Language



Non-Verbal Cues

- Use gestures or signs when you talk to your child.
- Respond when your child points or pulls your hand to get your attention.
- Note the importance of non-verbal communication to recognize emotions, such as facial expressions.



Repeat and Extend

- Listen to what your child says (or is trying to say).
- Repeat what they said, and add more. Such as...

Child: "Doggie!"

Adult "Yes, that is a doggie! A huge white doggie!"



Self Talk

Talk about what you are doing and describe your actions. This might sound similar to a cooking show host, such as, "Now I'm using this spoon to stir the soup!"



Parallel Talk

Talk about what your child is doing by narrating their actions. This might sound similar to a sportscaster, such as, "You are using your fingers to make holes in the playdough. Now you are rolling it between your hands."