



Tips for Building Language Development

The most important thing a parent can do for their child(ren) is to talk to them. The more words a child is exposed to, the better they learn.

Suskind, D., Suskind, B., & Lewinter-Suskind, L. (2015). Thirty Million Words. Dutton.

1 READ TO CHILDREN



Discuss the illustrations, meaning of words in the story, the problem that the character is trying to solve, and interesting facts in the book. Ask questions that start with 'how' or 'why' to allow your child to respond with a wide range of words, thoughts, and ideas.

2 ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION



Narrating what you are doing, while you are doing it, allows children to hear a variety of words. Describing what you are doing, asking open ended questions, and taking turns while speaking, allows many opportunities for your child to hear more words and develop language.

3 SING SONGS AND NURSERY RHYMES



Songs help children remember new words and hear patterns in sounds. Nursery rhymes teach children that stories have a beginning, middle, and end. Providing individual "tuned in" time allows your child to practice paying attention longer.

MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

It is important to practice all of these tips in your home language. Children learn a second language more easily if they have strong language skills in their home language.

