



Talk, Talk, Talk!

Dear Families,

Oral language is the foundation of literacy. Children with good verbal skills are generally better readers. Here are some simple things you can do to improve talking and listening at home.

1. Turn off the radio or CD player in your car. Talk about your day or just listen to your child talk.
2. Turn off your television! Limit television viewing to 30 minutes a day. When your child does watch tv, watch the programs with your child and talk about what is going on. Ask questions. "Who is your favorite character?" "Is it real or pretend?" "What do you think will happen next?"
3. Eat meals together. Try to eat at least one meal a day as a family. Turn off the radio, TV, and cell phone and you'll be amazed at how talking will increase.
4. Model correct language for your child. If your child says something incorrectly, don't reprimand him or her. Simply repeat it correctly so your child hears how it should be said.
5. Talk about what you see as you drive down the road or what you are doing as you prepare a meal. The more your child hears you talk, the more your child will want to talk.
6. Listen, listen, listen! Stop what you are doing and look your child in the eyes when he or she talks to you. Demonstrate to your child that what he or she has to say is important to you.

Happy talking!