

# Early Literacy Tips: TALK

**A key component of early literacy storytimes is sharing information with parents and caregivers through early literacy reminders.**

**Using reminders that flow naturally into what is already happening in storytime can help make giving reminders easier and more fluid.**

When your babies babble at you, they love for you to answer them because, as far as they're concerned, they're talking to you! Baby goos and gaas are building blocks of spoken language.



Children learn language by listening to their parents and others talk. When children hear words spoken, they learn what they mean. This helps them understand what they are reading.

When we ask questions about what they see - pause - let your words sink in for a few seconds before moving on. Even if your child isn't responding, keep the interaction going back and forth. These "serve and return" interactions are the best brain building activity!

Picture books have more rare words than daily conversation, so when we discover new words in our book, let's pause to explain them. Our children are filling up their "word bucket" and this prepares them to be good readers because it is easier to read a word you are already familiar with.

Sharing a book with your child does not mean having to read what is written. It can also mean talking about the pictures or having the child tell **you** the story.

