

## Home Language Recommendations

- **Talk through an activity.** Explain what you're doing as you do it. Speak clearly.
- **Face your child while speaking to them.** This way your child can watch how your mouth makes sounds. They can also watch your facial expressions and match them with your language.
- **Speak at your child's level.** Don't use baby talk, or overly hard words. Stress the syllables.
- **Encourage your child to speak at their highest level.** If your child is capable of using multiple-words to request, make them. For example, encourage your child to say "water please" or "I want water" instead of just "water."
- **Listen to your child.** Build your child's confidence by showing your child that he/she says is important.
- **Don't point out mistakes in grammar, etc..** Instead, repeat the whole sentence saying the word correctly.
- **Read every day.** Children who read early and easily are those who were read to at home. Allow your child to pick out books to read at the library or bookstore. If your child is resistant to reading, pick books that focus on an activity they enjoy (e.g. trains, dogs) or shorter books that may match your child's attention span.
- **Read predictable books.** Soon your child will be "reading" it too! Some good examples are: *I Went Walking*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Silly Sally*, *Peanut Butter and Jelly* and *Little Red Hen*.
- **Play with writing.** If your child is interested in pencils and paper, let he/she try. Write with them and talk about the different shapes and pictures you draw.
- **Play Object Hide-and-Seek.** Hide a favorite toy and ask her/him to find it. Talk about where they are looking as they are doing it (e.g. behind the chair, under the table, beside the dresser, between the books).
- **Play labeling games while driving, going for a walk, reading a book, etc.** Point to familiar things and ask your child to name them.
- **Act out action words.** Be animated and silly and have FUN with your child while running, jumping, spinning, hopping, crawling, rolling, clapping, tip-toeing, etc.
- **Sing.** Introduce nursery rhymes, finger plays and counting rhymes. Listen to them on CD. Also, sing songs that have motions that go with them, such as "I'm a Little Teapot."
- **Play imitating games.** Label what you are doing as you are doing it.

Take your child to language-rich environments, such as storytime at the library, the grocery store, the zoo, the park, etc. Talk about what you see, hear, observe.