

Oral language skills can be worked on every day, while doing everyday things, like travelling to/from school, going grocery shopping, and putting away laundry.

Vocabulary

- Words are the building blocks of language. Children need to understand and use as many words as possible so that they can understand what they hear (listening comprehension), understand what they read (reading comprehension), and become good writers.



- When at the **grocery store**, have your child name things you point to. Label items your child doesn't know. Relate new vocabulary to all the senses. Have your child think of words to describe or talk about things, like: colour, shape, texture, size, function, category, parts, beginning sound (e.g., an apple is a hard, smooth, round, red, juicy, crunchy fruit, it grows on a tree, and it is for eating)
- While **putting away laundry**, have your child help with sorting (e.g., shirts in one pile, pants in another). You can also work on:
 - pronouns (e.g., "my shirt, your shirt")
 - plurals (e.g., "one sock, two socks")
 - concepts (e.g., which pile has more/less; this shirt is big/little)
- Talk about how things are the same and how they are different. (e.g., these shirts both have stripes, but one has blue stripes and the other has red stripes)

Story-telling

- Telling stories helps children develop social skills, memory skills, language skills, speaking confidence, and writing skills. Stories have beginnings, middles, and ends, and details (e.g., who, what happened, where, how, when, etc.).
- Teach your child to tell stories about events they have experienced. As a family, there are many things that you do together that can become story opportunities for your child.
 - **Trips to visit family**, the time you got lost on the way to the beach, the time the fire alarm went off in the middle of the night, or the time you burned the cookies are all story telling opportunities.
 - Use your camera to take pictures of events, to help with recall of details and accurate sequencing. Practice telling stories every day.

