



# Curriculum Corner

Insights and tips to support students' learning journeys

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## Talking to your child helps them learn!

Before children become confident readers and writers, they first need to talk, listen, and understand. These oral language skills are the building blocks for literacy - helping children decode words, make meaning from text, and express their ideas clearly.

Oral language is more than speaking clearly. It includes vocabulary, sentence structure, listening skills, and the ability to explain, question, and describe. When children talk about stories, explain their thinking, or join a conversation, they're strengthening the skills they use in reading and writing.

## How we build oral language at school:

At school, we make the most of every opportunity to build oral language.

We use rich language and model how to speak about ideas.

We ask students to share their thinking.

We plan storytelling, role-playing and vocabulary activities.

We guide older and younger students learn language from each other.

## How to build oral language at home:

**Talk often** — Chat during everyday tasks like cooking or driving.

**Read or watch and discuss** — Ask questions about stories or characters (even from movies.)

**Play with language** — Tell jokes, rhymes, or play "I spy."

**Ask "why" and "how"** — Encourage your child to explain their thinking.

**Be a good listener** — Show interest and take turns in conversation.

Strong oral language sets the stage for strong reading and writing. Thank you for the conversations and stories you share with your child — your voice helps them learn.