

Elementary Activity

Talking, Watching, and Listening

Use these techniques to develop language, listening, and thinking skills and to increase awareness of self and others.

1. Take your child with you when you run errands and talk about what you are seeing. Ask questions about what he or she sees. When you return, have your child tell a family member or friend about the trip.
 - Talk about the different workers and name the occupation and explain what the worker is doing. “Look at the street repair worker who is fixing the pothole in the street.”
2. Start conversations with your child by asking a question that has no right or wrong answer.
 - “What did you think when you saw that movie?”
3. Help develop creative thinking by asking questions such as, “Suppose that...”, “What do you think...”, and “What if...”.
4. Encourage the child to talk with older family members, friends, and neighbors. A child who talks a lot will learn to put ideas into words and to listen to others.
5. Watch television with the child and talk about what you see and hear.
 - Ask the child to compare the situations on TV with those in real life. “Does our family do things like the family in the show?”
 - Point out the work the TV characters are doing. “What does that person do at work?” “Who do you know who does the same work?”
6. Think and plan out loud so that the child can see and hear you using language to solve problems and make plans.
7. Ask the child to help you with a task and talk about what you are doing. Ask the child to tell you what you or they are doing.

Adapted from
The Role of Parents in Their Child’s Career Development
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