



Using Books to Promote Speech & Language

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Reading a book with your child is a great way to build a variety of speech and language skills! They can help your child practice speech sounds, increase attention, build vocabulary, and develop other language skills.

Speech Sounds

If your child has trouble pronouncing certain speech sounds, books can be a great way to get in a little extra practice! While reading the book, see if your child can pick out which words or pictures have the sound he or she is working on. Then, have them say the word to practice the sound! For example, if your child is working on the “l” sound, you could say, “Lion! The word ‘lion’ has your ‘l’ sound in it! Let’s practice that word.” If your child is working on a specific sound, pick up a book that has a lot of that sound in it to provide more chances to practice!



Parts of Speech

Books are a great way to build vocabulary skills and improve their understanding and use of the different parts of speech! Here are some suggestions for helping your child develop different parts of speech while reading:

- Point to pictures in the book and label them with your child to build their noun vocabulary.
- Talk about what the animals or people are doing to build their verb vocabulary (e.g. “Look, the fish is swimming!”).
- To work on adjectives, describe the different people, animals, or objects you see in the book. Talk about their size, shape, color, or even how they may feel (texture).

Comprehension

While reading a book, sneak in a few questions that help build your child’s comprehension skills. After reading a page or short passage, ask them what happened to see if they can summarize in their own words what’s going on in the story. Ask them what characters are doing, where things are located, and how characters may be feeling and why. You may want to focus on one type of question at a time, such as just “who” questions or just “where” questions. Don’t ask too many questions where it feels like a test, remember, reading should be fun!

Tips

- Be animated! Change the pitch of your voice for different characters, use sound effects, or act out parts of the book. Make it fun and engage your child!
- If you come across a new word, help explain what the word means to your child. Give an example or point to a picture in the book to help your child understand.
- Read at a natural speaking rate.
- Take turns reading parts of the book or turning the pages.