



Speech and Hearing BC



Speaking, Reading, Writing: Early Development and Later Success

Speaking, reading and writing are interconnected.

Supporting your child in their understanding and use of oral language from an early age can help to build strong foundations for reading and writing skills in later years.

Children who don't receive early support are often at a disadvantage. Those with spoken language problems frequently have difficulty learning to read and write, and children with reading and writing problems often struggle with spoken language.

How You Can Support Your Child's Development



Read words in your surroundings: Children begin to read by seeing words in their environment. Point out signs and common words in their world, not just in books.



Take a 'picture walk': One of the earliest methods to support literacy is to 'walk' through the pages of a book, naming objects in each picture.



Ask questions: Before reading a book, ask your child to predict the story based on the title.



Use as much vocabulary as you can: Children with weaker vocabularies often perform poorly in later school years. Speak often and say many different words to your child during their early years.



Play "I Spy": Use a letter's sound rather than the name of the letter when playing. For example, say, "I spy something beginning with 'sss'" (not 'S').



Write down stories: When your child is 3-5 years old, ask them to tell you a story and write it down for them.

For more tips about aiding your child's speech, language and literacy – or to find out more about warning signs relating to communication – [visit **speechandhearingbc.ca**](http://speechandhearingbc.ca).

Produced by Speech and Hearing BC.

