

# EARLY LEARNING AT HOME

## Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Language

To increase your child's vocabulary, read every day and talk about the books you read.



PRESCHOOLERS | ages 3-5 years

Your child continually learns new words and expands their vocabulary. The more you talk and introduce new words and concepts to your child, the more their vocabulary grows. Your child should be able to speak clearly, express thoughts, feelings, and ideas. Children should also be able to describe familiar places, things and events. Your child should be able to take turns speaking and listening and responding to what is being said.

### Craft:

To encourage language development, make a bag of questions to ask and answer with your child.

1. Have your child use crayons, markers, foamies, and stickers to decorate a paper bag.
2. Have them cut the questions into strips (using scissors is another great Kindergarten skill to work on!)
3. Fold each question and put all of them in the decorated bag.
4. Play! Draw questions out of the bag and have your child answer them with as much detail as possible. To encourage more language use, ask follow up questions or tell stories relating to the questions.

### Alternative ideas:

1. Take turns answering the questions with your child, model the behavior and language use.
2. Work with your child to create your own list of questions to add to the bag.
3. Have your child draw a picture answering the question.
4. If you really want to mix things up, pull out your questions for a while and put words into the jar instead. Pull out three words and see if you can create a sentence or story that uses all three words. The more words you pull, the more challenging it will be.

### Check out these books to explore new vocabulary:

**Rah, Rah Radishes! A Vegetable Chant** by April Pulley Sayre  
**A Sick Day for Amos McGee** by Philip Stead  
**Skippyjon Jones** by Judy Schachner  
**Big Words for Little People** by Jamie Lee Curtis