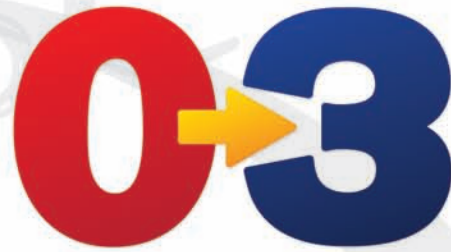


sing

Songs are a wonderful way for children to learn about language. Singing also slows down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words. This helps children when they begin to read printed language.



- 1 Sing nursery rhymes and other rhyming poems. This allows your child to hear the different sounds in words. Encourage your child to sing along with you.
- 2 Clap along to the rhythms in songs to help your child hear the syllables in words.
- 3 Sing songs and play music for your child. Sing the alphabet. This will help your child learn about letters.
- 4 Sing favorite songs over and over again. Repeated singing will strengthen language development.



primeagetoengage

Did you know that talk is the single biggest factor driving brain growth and kindergarten readiness for children ages 0 to 3?

The 0 to 3: Prime Age to Engage initiative works to increase awareness about the importance of talk with children beginning from birth.

For more information about 0 to 3: Prime Age to Engage, please visit our website at [www.primeagetoengage.com](http://www.primeagetoengage.com).

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Sioux City Community School District  
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talk  
play  
read  
sing



# talk

Children learn language by listening to adults talk. As children listen to spoken language, they learn new words and what the words mean while gaining knowledge about the world around them.



- 1 Talk about what your child is doing wherever you are and describe what she is looking at, touching or playing with. Stretch your child's vocabulary by adding on to what she says. "You want a banana? That's a very healthy choice."
- 2 Make sure your child has many opportunities to talk to you, not just to listen while you talk.
- 3 Speak to your child in the language you know best. This allows you to explain things easier and your child will learn more.
- 4 Answer all your baby's gurgles, coos and smiles with expressions and coos of your own. Wait for your baby to answer you. The turn-taking mimics conversations that your baby will have in the future.

# play

Children learn about language through play. Children think symbolically when they play, which helps them to understand that spoken and written words can stand for real objects and experiences. Play also helps children to express themselves and put thoughts into words.



- 1 Play a game like peek-a-boo while grocery shopping or a game of pretend. Make faces and use gestures when playing with your child.
- 2 Use different noises for toys like trucks, dolls or animals. Hearing different noises and pitches helps your child develop the basics of language.
- 3 Pretend to read a book. Have your child tell you a story based on the pictures in a book. Ask your child to "read" a familiar book and tell you the story.
- 4 Show your child how a toy works and then let them try. Stack the first two blocks and then encourage your child to stack some too.

# read

Reading together is the single most important way you can help prepare your child to read.

Starting from birth, reading increases vocabulary and background knowledge while helping children develop an interest in reading. Children who enjoy being read to are much more likely to want to learn to read themselves.



- 1 Read whatever you see during your day to your child (street signs, grocery store labels, or posters at an office) to improve your child's vocabulary.
- 2 Make reading interactive. Before you begin a book, ask your child to look at the cover and predict what it will be about. Allow your child to turn the book's pages. Ask questions as you read.
- 3 Take time everyday to read at least one story to your child. Set aside a designated story time.
- 4 Read your child's favorite book over and over again. Your child is learning vocabulary, fluency and other reading skills through this repetition.