

Communicate with Parents / *Comunicación con los padres*

Summary

Parents can make a major difference in their child's language development and academic success by helping their child develop speaking and listening skills. This is best done in the parent's strongest language. It does not in any way hurt a child's learning of English for the parents to speak with the child in the home language. In fact, strengthening the child's vocabulary and skill in the home language is one of the most powerful roles a parent can play in their child's later academic success and literacy. And, by continuing to help a child develop vocabulary and skills in the home language, it is more likely they will gain the benefits of being a bilingual person.

Unfortunately, parents often do not know how important oral language is in the development of literacy and academic success. And, parents of English Learners often mistakenly think they are doing their child a disservice to encourage the use of the home language.

As part of an overall "get the children talking" effort, teachers need to communicate with parents clearly their key role in supporting oral language development, and the importance of maintaining and developing the home language. Teachers need to provide guidance to parents about strategies they can use at home to encourage more oral language. Finally, letting parents know about upcoming thematic units, key concepts and vocabulary will help parents play a role in providing opportunities for children to talk about what they are learning.

Implementation

Communicate key messages to your parents

Every teacher of young children needs to communicate to parents these two major messages:

1. Building strong oral language (speaking and listening) skills is a crucial foundation for participation in school, for developing reading and writing proficiency, and for academic success. **One of the MOST important things a parent can do to support academic learning is to help their child become an active communicator** who has the skills and is comfortable speaking audibly with a wide range of vocabulary, and able to ask questions for clarification. When children are young, they learn by listening and talking with the adults in their lives. Engaging children in conversation, modeling language for them by having them hear you speak, and encouraging them to ask questions are all powerful strategies that will make a difference!
2. If you and your child are more comfortable with Spanish (or Vietnamese, or another language), then sing, talk, and read with your child in your home language. This will build your child's speaking, listening, and understanding skills. These skills will later

help him speak and read English. Oral language skills in the home language support the development of English and academic success even if the child is in an English-Instructed taught classroom. **A parent should use their *strongest language in conversing with and reading to their children.*** It will help the development of the home language as well as help children in mastering English, developing literacy and becoming a strong bilingual person.

Give parents ideas about how to support oral language

These are things parents can do to help their child develop oral language skills:

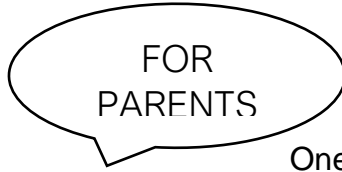
- Engage in conversations with your child.
- Describe out loud to your child what you are doing.
- Play games with sounds and words.
- Tell stories, sing songs and recite or create rhymes and poems. Invite your child to participate.
- Read books out loud.
- Create conversations about new things: pictures, objects and experiences.
- Don't use "babytalk" with your child all the time; use more precise and complex vocabulary when you can so they learn more vocabulary.
- Ask your child questions and encourage them to tell you about what they are thinking, learning, and wondering. If you ask a question that only requires a "yes" or "no" response, they won't have to produce much language. Ask open-ended questions that have no single right answer, and that require a child to use more language.
- Encourage your child to tell you when he or she doesn't understand something. The skill of asking questions is an important one for your child to learn, and it opens up opportunities for more talking together.
- Listen! Listen carefully what your child says to you without rushing him along or speaking for him. Let him do the "brain work" of figuring how to say what he wants to say. Ask for clarification when you don't understand.

Provide parents information and vocabulary related to current thematic units

At the start of every thematic unit, send an information packet home to families that describe the key concepts that you will be teaching and provides parents with some key vocabulary their children will be learning. Remind them of the importance of children having opportunities to use their new vocabulary and to express their new learning. Give parents ideas of the kinds of questions they can ask their children to get children talking. Encourage parents to talk with their children about their own experiences with the theme, and to sing songs they may know related to the theme. Ask them to let you know if they have skills, songs, and experiences to share with the class related to the theme.

Notes on Communication with Parents

HOW TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC SUCCESS BY ENCOURAGING YOUR CHILD TO TALK!



FOR
PARENTS

Building strong oral language (speaking and listening) skills is a crucial foundation for participation in school, for developing reading and writing proficiency, and for academic success.

One of the MOST important things a parent can do to support academic learning is to help their child become an active communicator who has the skills and is comfortable speaking audibly with a wide range of vocabulary and able to ask questions for clarification. When children are young, they learn by listening and talking with their parents, relatives, babysitters, and others.

Engaging children in conversation, modeling language for them by having them hear you speak, encouraging them to ask questions are powerful strategies that will make a difference!

If you and your child are more comfortable with Spanish, then sing, talk, and read with your child in your home language. This will build your child's speaking, listening, and understanding skills. These skills will later help him speak and read English. Oral language skills in the home language support the development of English and academic success even if the child is in an English-Only taught classroom. A parent should use their *strongest* language in conversing with and reading to their children. It will help the development of the home language as well as help children in mastering English, developing literacy and becoming a strong bilingual person.

These are things parents can do to help their child develop oral language skills:

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¡CÓMO APOYAR EL ÉXITO ACADÉMICO DE SU HIJO/A ANIMÁNDOLE A HABLAR!

PARA
LOS
PADRES

Desarrollar fuertemente las habilidades de comunicación oral (hablar y escuchar) crea una base esencial para la buena participación en la escuela, el desarrollo de las habilidades de leer y escribir, y el éxito académico. Una de las cosas MÁS importantes que puede hacer un padre o una madre para apoyar el aprendizaje académico de su hijo/a es ayudarlo a ser un comunicador activo que se sienta cómodo hablar en voz alta con amplio conocimiento de vocabulario y que sepa pedir clarificación. Cuando los niños son jóvenes, aprenden por medio de escuchar a y hablar con sus padres, parientes, u otras personas responsables de cuidarles.

Animarles a sus hijos participar activamente en las conversaciones, demostrar como modelo el lenguaje que Ud. usa, y darle ganas de hacer preguntas – son estrategias poderosas ¡que marca una gran diferencia en el aprendizaje de su hijo/a!

Si Ud. y su hijo/a se sienten más cómodos hablar en español – entonces conversa, canta y lee con su hijo/a en la lengua hablada en casa. Éste va a desarrollar la capacidad y las destrezas de su hijo/a hablar, escuchar y entender. Todas estas habilidades en español van a ayudarlo aprender hablar y leer en inglés también. Habilidades de comunicación oral en la lengua de casa apoya el desarrollo de inglés y el éxito académico a pesar de que u hijo/a esté en una clase donde se enseña solamente en inglés. Un padre o una madre debe de usar lenguaje “poderoso,” con vocabulario rico y significativo, cuando les habla y lee a sus hijos. Éste le ayudará con el desarrollo de la lengua hablada en casa además de ayudar que los niños dominen el inglés, desarrollen habilidades de lectoescritura, y lleguen a ser personas bilingües.

Lo que pueden hacer los padres para ayudarles a sus hijos desarrollar su lenguaje oral:

- Conversar con su hijo/a.
- Describir en voz alta a su hijo/a lo que está haciendo.
- Jugar juegos con palabras y sonidos.
- Contar cuentos, cantar canciones, hacer rimas, y recitar poemas. Invitarle a su hijo/a participar.
- Leer libros en voz alta.
- No usar “balbuceo” con su hijo/a todo el tiempo; usar palabras más precisas y complejas cuando sea posible para que puedan aprender más vocabulario.
- Inventar conversaciones sobre cosas nuevas: fotos, objetos y experiencias.
- Hacer preguntas a su hijo/a y animarle decir lo que está pensando, aprendiendo y preguntándose. Si hace una pregunta que solo requiere la respuesta “sí” o “no” entonces no tiene que producir lenguaje “poderoso.” Hacer preguntas abiertas que

no tiene una sola respuesta correcta, y que requiere que su hijo/a produzca más lenguaje.

- Animar a su hijo/a hacer preguntas cuando no entiende algo. La habilidad de hacer una pregunta es importante, y abre aún más oportunidades para comunicación y conversación.
- Escuchar! Escuchar atentamente a su hijo/a y dejar de que él o ella hable sin prisa y presión y no hablar por él o ella. Dejar de que su hijo/a haga lo necesario para llegar a entender cómo decir lo que quiere decir. Pedir clarificación cuando no entiende lo que dice.