

# Supporting Language & Literacy



## 5 Years: Why Literacy Matters

Every moment you've had with your child has helped them learn important language and pre-literacy skills. Strong literacy skills will help your child live the life they want and achieve their dreams. Don't stop now! You're still a very important part of them learning to read. Continue talking, reading, singing, and playing with them to build a strong foundation for all future reading.

### Tips & Activities



**Partner with your child's teacher.** See how you can reinforce the skills your child is learning at school.



**Help your child start to learn time.** Sing songs or use words like *'today'* and *'tomorrow.'*

**Talk about & label your child's feelings, and your own.** This helps them express themselves through words, and not unwanted behaviors.



**Continue to use your home language, the one you feel most comfortable using, even if it's different from the one primarily spoken at school.**

For children who speak multiple languages, this gives them the opportunity to practice *all* their language skills.



## Common Language Milestones



Keeps conversations going with more than 3 back-and-forth exchanges

With help, describes how illustrations support the story in a book

Uses longer, more complex, grammatically correct sentences

Uses words for time correctly, e.g. *yesterday* and *tomorrow*

Speech is easily understandable in conversation

Asks questions about feelings

# Early Detection *is* Intervention

Your child is always learning! As a caregiver, you have an amazing opportunity to guide them on a path to success.

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If you notice your child is having difficulties with a certain skill, isn't meeting multiple milestones, or if something just doesn't feel quite right, **talk with your child's healthcare provider.**

**Tips to set you and your child up for success when speaking with their healthcare provider:**

**Keep  
a journal**

Write down things that you notice your child doing, or not doing, that cause reason for concern.

**Use your  
resources**

Explore the websites listed below to find milestone checklists, a list of early warning signs, videos, and more.

**Trust  
your  
instincts**

You know your child best and you are their best advocate. Don't be afraid to speak up.

## Additional Resources

[Pathways: Communication](#)

[Harvard University: Center on the Developing Child](#)

[Cox Campus](#)

[The Basics](#)

[CDC Milestones](#)