

Supporting Language & Literacy

6 Years: Supporting Phonics Skills at Home

As children advance as readers, they need to be able to blend letter sounds without stumbling over words. You can help your child become a confident reader by helping them understand the relationships between letters and sounds.

TIPS & ACTIVITIES



Listen to your child read aloud every day. If they struggle with a word, help them sound it out. If they still can't get it, tell them the words so they don't get discouraged.

Revisit familiar books to build your child's confidence reading aloud.



Engage your child in conversation about their day or future plans. It can be done anywhere, e.g. the car, walking, or at the store.



Invite your child to ask questions about things they encountered at school or on television or in a conversation.



Ask leading questions to help your child explore language, e.g. 'Why is she your best friend? Is she kind or funny?'



Common Language Milestones

Knows and applies the relationship between sounds and letters to figure out words

Speaks in complete sentences and uses correct sentence structure

Asks and answers questions to gather additional information

Uses words and phrases learned through books

Clearly expresses ideas and 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! 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 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](#)