

# Helping language development at home

The best thing you can do to help your child develop their language skills is let them hear you talking.

- Spend time with your child.
- Sing, talk and play together.



This helps build language skills and helps little brains grow.

## GETTING READY TO LEARN



### Talk together

Talk about what you are doing.  
Describe what your child is doing



We are stirring everything in the bowl.



Now I put the cookies in the oven

Oh, you like tomato. Yummy!



I'm hanging all the clothes outside to dry.



You are digging a big hole. It's very deep.



Your blue jumper.





## Play together

There are lots of activities you can do to have fun together and build language.



**Cardboard boxes** are great fun. They can be anything your imagination dreams of!



**Bubbles and balls** can be good outdoor activities. Catching bubbles before they burst gets you both moving! Roll a ball between chair legs or aim at a target.

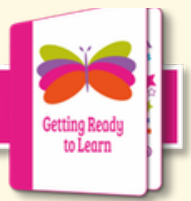


**Pretend play** is great for talking. You can be a shopkeeper, doctor, cook, or bring teddies on a picnic. Feed the animals, bake a cake. Anything!



**Outdoor play.** Visit a play park or go for a walk. Talk about what you see and hear.





## Sing together

Singing songs and rhymes together is a fantastic way to help language develop.



Nursery rhymes and action songs help with listening skills and speech. Make it fun with actions. Sing quietly, loudly, fast & slow.



Getting Ready to Learn has several resources to help with Nursery Rhymes.

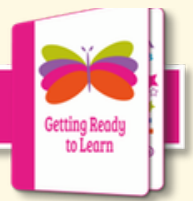
## Share a book together

Have a look at a picture book. Talk about the pictures and tell the story. Encourage your child to join in.



Put the screens away & enjoy a book. Libraries NI has lots of books you can borrow. Why not join a Rhythm & Rhyme event at your local library?





Find out more at the links below:



**EA SEN Early Years** web page has a range of resources to support language development. Have a look at the short videos and **A-Z of language activities** to help support language and communication skills.



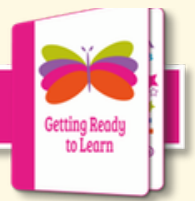
**Help Kids Talk** provides advice, top tips, advice sheets, bite size videos and other resources to help you support your child's language development.



**RISE NI** provides advice, strategies and resources to help with talking and listening and other language skills.



**CBeebies Parenting** has lots of useful information and ideas to support your child, including tips and activities on how to help with your child's speech, language and communication skills.



## Libraries NI - Rhythm & Rhyme events

Joining in with songs and rhymes is a great way to develop language. Find your nearest event or check out other information on the Libraries NI website.



Speech & Language UK is a specialist website which provides lots of advice about language development. You can see typical ages & stages, and get tips on what to do to develop your child's language skills.

**If you have concerns about your child's language development, you can talk to:**

- your health visitor
- your GP
- your child's nursery teacher
- your child's pre-school leader

