

Teachers, Family Workers, Home Visitors, Friends:

You have the opportunity to encourage all parents and caregivers of babies and young children to create a language-rich environment for the youngsters in their care.

Low-literacy adults may need extra encouragement to feel confident in their role of providing words for their child.

Here are some talking points for you to share with families that don't rely on reading books aloud, but use books as inspiration to talk and tell stories and that give words, love, and attention to the children in families' lives.



Word Play!

Children love to hear you talk. It teaches them words!

- Sing and talk to your baby/child all the time.
- Tell your baby/child what you are doing as you go through your day.
- Point to things and tell your baby what they are called.
- Share books together by using the pictures to tell a story.
- Tell stories to your child, make-believe or real.
- Let your child pick out books and hold them.
- Grandma, grandpa, relatives and friends can all read books to your baby/child. You can sit in and listen, too.
- Look for books on CD or tape to listen to at home.

Your baby will find your voice comforting.
You will be teaching your child words, just by talking to them.
Your child will see that books and stories are fun.

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