



Christ Our Model.
Children Our Focus.

Building Language Skills at Home

School Age (Ages 6 - 12)



PLAY!

- Playing games together is a great way to sharpen language skills! During game play, children may learn new words, learn how to take turns and play fair, learn how to ask and answer questions and learn how to follow directions!
 - Try playing a variety of games!
 - **Listening games**
 - Simon Says

For older children, use more complex language (e.g. “**Before** you put your hands on your head, hop on one foot”; “Sit down **after** you spin around”).
 - **Word games**
 - I Spy
 - Category games *Name as many zoo animals as you can in one minute. Use any category you wish (e.g. toys, winter clothes, sea creatures, and so on)*
 - Make up a silly story with each player adding to the story, one sentence at a time.
 - **Memory Games** *I went on a trip and I brought*
 - **Board games** Headbanz, Outburst Junior, Pictionary and so on
-

READ!

- Read aloud to your child, even if they are a good reader! Encourage older siblings to read to younger siblings.
- Ask thinking questions
 - *What do you think will happen next?*
 - *How did Susie feel?*
 - *Why did they _____?*
 - *What was funny about that?*
- Retell the story together e.g. *Draw stick figure sequences; reenact with stuffies*
- Predict what the story will be about before reading it. Collect clues from the title and the cover.

TALK!

- Use interesting words! Use your **5 senses** to describe items in your home. This apple is *round, red, crunchy, juicy, smooth, and sweet!!*
- Take turns telling stories using the sequence words ***first, next, then.***
- Use feeling words such as ***excited, embarrassed, and nervous*** to talk about personal feelings or the feelings of a character in a book or movie. For older children, use more figurative language to talk about feelings such as ***cold, blue, bitter.***

LISTEN!

- When giving directions use
 - **Position words** → *behind, beside, next to, closest to*
 - **Time words** → *before, after*
 - **Order words** → *first, second, middle, last*

Show them what the words mean! *I'm on the chair, Robbie is behind the chair and Claire is under the chair!*

For more information about building language rich environments at home, please check out the Talk Box at <https://www.alberta.ca/creating-language-rich-environments.aspx>