

# Every Day Situations Provide the Context for Language! Give Your Child Exposure to Language Rich Experiences

There are many ways to enhance communication development and build language through daily activities. Take the activities you and your child already complete during the day and brainstorm ways to incorporate more language-rich interactions as you complete them. You can also add new activities to what you do during the day to further enhance language and create opportunities for building conversations! This can be done when utilizing spoken language, visual language, or a combination of both!

## Opportunities to Build Language During the Day:

### *Daily Routines*

- Having a plan for what is going to occur during all or part of the day can add opportunities for building language skills
- Plan and prioritizing daily responsibilities, go through daily routine, and delegate daily tasks with your child
- Rituals such as telling stories at bedtime and/or talking about what happened that day provide context for exchange of communication, sharing of experiences, and utilizing creativity when talking with your child

### *Mealtimes*

- Talk about what you're making, eating, and name different foods on the plate
- Talk about how much food is left: what foods still need to be eaten, how many bites are left?
- Discuss likes and dislikes while preparing meals together



### *Household Activities: Chores*

- Helping with **laundry**:
  - Name clothing items, match types of clothes and colors, count items, and talk about washing instructions
- Helping with **dishes**:
  - Label different items in the kitchen
  - Count items being put away and ask your child where things go
- Grocery shopping:
  - With the amount of sights, sounds, and happenings in a store, there are many opportunities to build language with your child during this outing
  - Have your child create and keep track of the shopping list, count the amount of items needed
  - Talk about grocery budget with older children



## Helpful Tips to Remember During Language-Building Activities:



- Continue to use complex utterances and sentences with children with hearing loss
  - This will help your child progress in the development of their language and promote them to use more advanced communication skills.
- Observe your child's interest and build conversations around what they're focused on.
  - Following your child's interest helps them engage in learning opportunities
- Incorporating songs, chants and poems to any of these activities can further enhance language skills.
  - Language is a set of patterns and meanings, and exposing children to songs, chants, and poems helps them recognize patterns and learn to build language in these fundamental ways.
- Use transitions as teachable moments between activities.
  - Narrating what you and your child are doing while moving from one activity to the next enhances opportunity to start conversation and ties conversation to what your child is doing/focusing on.
- Engaging your child in these conversation-building activities helps promote face-to-face communication
  - Face-to-face communication provides better language experience than TV since more genuine and realistic conversations happen with those around you.
  - This is because your child is directly included in face-to-face conversations, whereas television only models communication for your child.
  - Your child can learn about social cues and conversational turn taking while interacting in a direct conversation.

## Language Skills that are Addressed in Daily Activities:

**Receptive Language:** your child's

ability to understand what is being said to them and asked of them

- activity examples: helping with laundry, following directions while prepping meals

**Expressive language:** your child's ability to express their wants and needs

- activity examples: sorting laundry, following directions while prepping meals,

**Pragmatics:** the use of language in social contexts and the ways your child produces and comprehends meanings through language

- activity examples: daily routines, building face to face conversations; turn taking/asking questions during daily activities

**Building Vocabulary:**

- activity examples: planning and prepping meals, grocery shopping, helping with laundry (sorting clothes), and helping with the dishes

**Memory:**

- activity examples: sorting clothes for laundry; thinking about what needs to get done during the day
- Language also provides structure for math and critical thinking skills
  - measuring food, counting laundry, and budgeting groceries additionally help build math skills

