



BY TALKING to your children, children learn to talk better.

- Talk about the colors, sounds and smells in and around your home.
- Talk about everyday tasks. Name clothing as you help children get dressed.
- Ask your children questions. Have them ask you questions.
- Talk in whole sentences. Use lots of different words when speaking.
- Tell stories and talk about them with children. Ask them to guess what will happen next or to ask questions.
- Ask children to tell you what is important to them.



TO HELP children be ready to read and write, you can:

- Ask children to draw the picture and tell you what the picture is about. Write down what they tell you.
- Teach children to match a picture with the written word.
- Help children cut out words from a magazine.
- Encourage writing skills, even scribbling, at an early age.

HELP CHILDREN learn new words.



- Practice clapping out sounds in words. Say letters and sound out words.
- Use songs, finger plays, games and rhymes (like *Itsy Bitsy Spider* or *Diez Deditos*).
- Teach children new words. Explain what the words mean in words they can understand.

FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA

EARLY LEARNING TIPS

HELP CHILDREN LEARN EARLY

Tips to help children learn to talk, read and write

OTHER TIPS to remember:



- Give children love and attention.
 - Read, sing and talk with them each day.
 - Meet a child's needs right away.
 - Answer a baby's cries and a child's questions.
- Make safe play areas.
 - Give children time to run, jump and dance.
 - Let children do art, or play with blocks and puzzles.
 - Give children a chance to do things on their own.

- It is also good to:
 - Set up times to play with other children.
 - Let children have a few choices.
 - Be a kind and caring example for children.



USE PLAY to help children learn.

- Children can use reading and writing during play time.
- Use junk mail to play post office.
- Use a notepad to play waiter/waitress in a restaurant.
- Set up a play "office" with scrap paper and pencils.

WHERE to find help

Call your local library for more information about reading and their children's programs.