



Your Library partners with families to prepare children for kindergarten

This week's theme is Communication & Language Development

Early Learning Standard 3.1: Children use listening and observation skills to make sense of and respond to spoken language and other forms of communication.

1. Kids demonstrate an understanding of words that describe spatial concepts, such as “in” and “on” and “top” and “bottom.”

Parents can: Use these terms naturally when playing with your child, such as “I see you put your block under the chair.”

2. Kids use and respond to “how,” “why,” and “when” questions appropriately.

Parents can: Be responsive to your child’s inquiries and interests, being careful to answer simply and wait for further questions from your child.

3. Kids can follow 3-4 step directions, such as “Put on your books, get your coat, and stand by the door please.”

Parents can: Provide opportunities and support for the child to follow 3-4 step directions, such as getting ready for bed or going outside.

4. Kids can focus on the meaning of words to enhance understanding and build vocabulary.

Parents can: Provide words and definitions for your child at an appropriate developmental level using child’s interests and inquiries as a guide. Take advantage of opportunities to “look it up” or “find a book about it.”

Standard 3.2: Children develop skills in using sounds, facial expressions, gestures, and words to help others understand their needs, ask questions, express feelings and ideas, and solve problems.

1. Kids express feelings with words, such as excited, sad, tired, or frustrated.

Parents can: Encourage children to label their emotions and make verbal requests.



2. Kids initiate and participate in conversations.

Parents can: Provide opportunities for children to engage in conversations with others, both peers and adults.

3. Kids use increasingly longer sentences, including descriptive words such as red ball or running fast.

Parents can: Foster a rich environment where children's efforts to communicate are heard and valued, such as writing down a story they are telling or sending letters.

4. Kids demonstrate correct grammar more consistently, such as correct pronouns and verb forms.

Parents can: Continue to model correct language usage in conversation and storytelling. Respect your child's determination to communicate by *not* correcting his or her efforts.



5. Kids use new words.

Parents can: Play games with words and rhymes, write down new and interesting words, and talk about new words when reading nonfiction and stories.

6. Kids relate a story or event with increasing detail and coherence, such as repeating a story, telling his own story, or repeating a song.

Parents can: Provide opportunities for your child to tell a story or retell an event.

Standard 3.3: Children develop skills that help them interact and communicate with others.

1. Kids demonstrate turn-taking in play and conversation.

Parents can: Provide many opportunities for child-directed dramatic play, including props and activities that promote conversation.

2. Kids use language appropriately with different audiences, depending on who is listening (i.e. grandparent or talking to a baby).

Parents can: Expose child to a variety of conversations with people of varying ages and backgrounds.

3. Kids adjust intonation and volume of speech for a variety of settings.



Parents can: Provide encouragement for your child to learn and practice socially and culturally appropriate etiquette.

For more tips about what you can do to help your child get ready for school, send "SIGNUP" to 406-204-3583 or ask a children's librarian.