

This speech box looks at recount and the importance of talking about your day.



Recount – The importance of talking about your day

Talking with children is important because it builds your child’s language and communication skills. By creating opportunities for your child to re-tell stories you can support your child’s understanding of how stories work. This is a great way to support early literacy skills and will help with reading comprehension later on and also their vocabulary development and development of simple sentence construction. Research shows that supported recounts of personal experiences is an important tool in language development (Saunders & Goldenberg, 1999).

When you go on an outing with your child take a few photos of things happening around you. For example, during a trip to the farm, take photos as your child feeds the animals, goes on a ride or eats lunch. Later, look at the photos together and use them to help guide your child to recount what happened at the farm. By placing the pictures in a sequence it opens up an opportunity for you to support your child’s understanding of sequence and related vocabulary such as ‘first’, ‘next’, and ‘last’, as well as use of simple conjunctions such as ‘and’. You could create your own personalised book in this way which is another great way of developing your child’s language in a fun and personal way.

Each day when you get home from school ask your child “How was your day?” to start with use sentence starters to help them think about what to say. Do the same task recounting your own day so your child hears a model of the task.

For example:

“Today at school I learnt...

At recess I ...

For lunch I ate...

My favourite thing about today was....

References

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Saunders, W. M., & Goldenberg, C. (1999). Effects of instructional conversations and literature logs on limited- and fluent-English-proficient students’ story 34 comprehension and thematic understanding. *Elementary School Journal*, 99(4), 277-301.