

How Can Families Support Oral Language and Vocabulary Development?

Read! Talk! Listen! Take every opportunity to talk with and listen to your child. Talk about people you know, places you go, and experiences you have together. Writing with your child also helps with oral language development.

- Ask questions that require more than a yes or no answer. For example, instead of asking, "Did you have a good day?" ask, "What was your favorite part of school today?" Continue to ask questions about your child's response. If the answer was "Recess," ask, "Who did you play with?" "What did you do?" "How do you play that game?"
- When you speak with your child, model speaking in complete sentences and provide details. For example, if your child points to a butterfly and says, "Butterfly!" say, "Yes, that is a monarch butterfly! Aren't her colorful wings beautiful?"
- Get excited if your child asks what a word means! Tell your child that it is great to ask questions about unknown words. Explain what the word means and use it in a sentence using a context he or she understands. For example, **combine** means put together. "I **combine** milk with chocolate powder to make chocolate milk." "Let's **combine** this load of dirty clothes with this load of dirty clothes so we only have to do one load of laundry today!"

RECOMMENDATION 1: ACADEMIC LANGUAGE
How-to Step 3: Academic Vocabulary

1.3 Cooking Conversations

Key Points About the Video 

<https://youtu.be/y2uEltffyM> (5:07)

- Children have fun baking cupcakes and talking about what they are doing.
- Caretaker fully involves the children in reading the recipe, gathering ingredients, and making the cupcakes while talking about what they are doing.
- Caretaker asks several questions and encourages both children to engage in the conversation.

Here is another video called **Dinner Table Talk**. Let's watch and listen as the adults in the family help the children build their oral language.

1.3 Dinner Table Talk

Key Points About the Video 

<https://youtu.be/dt1I51JiXzk> (4:50)

- Adults listen and ask open-ended questions to extend the conversation.
- Adults correct children, as needed, and encourage complete sentences.
- Adults ask children to read notes written on napkins to engage them in understanding written messages.



Family Resources for How-to Step 3: Supporting Oral Language and Vocabulary

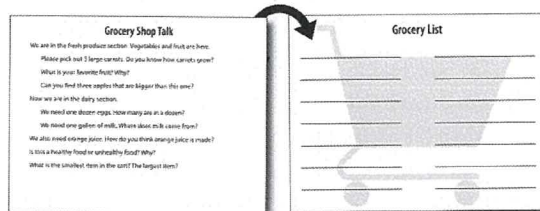
Let's look at the Family Resources **Talking and Writing in the Kitchen** and **Grocery Shop Talk** that you will take home and have fun speaking, listening, and writing in the kitchen and at the grocery store!

Answer questions about the Family Resources.

Print this one-sided resource for families to post on their refrigerator.



Print this two-sided resource and give to families for writing a grocery list and asking questions during shopping.



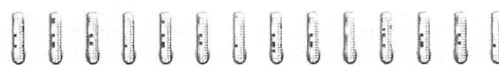
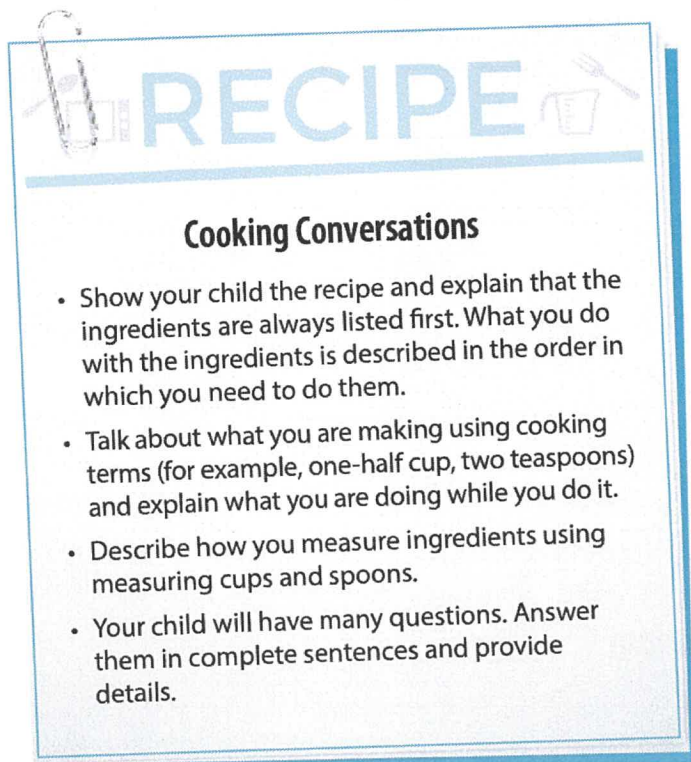
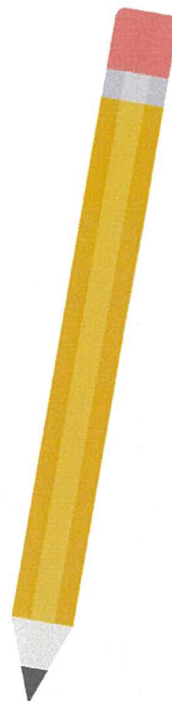


Dinner Table Talk

Engage in extended conversations at the dinner table. Share stories about your day. After you ask your child a question, follow up with more questions to encourage your child to provide details.

Examples:

- What ingredients did we use to make this meal? How did you help me make this? What did we do first? Then what?
- What was your favorite part of school today?
- What was hard for you today at school?
- Tell me about your daily routine at school. What do you do first? Then what do you do?



Writing in the Kitchen

- Make a grocery list. Plan meals together for the next week and write down what you will need from the grocery store to make them.
- Make to-do lists for errands you need to run or chores you do around the house.
- Make labels for food containers.
- Create a list of important phone numbers and put them on the refrigerator.
- Draw and write birthday cards, invitations, thank you notes, and "just because" notes to neighbors, friends, and loved ones.
- Write your own recipes!



Grocery Shop Talk

- We are in the fresh produce section. Vegetables and fruit are here.
- Please pick out three large carrots. Do you know how carrots grow?
- What is your favorite fruit? Why?
- Can you find three apples that are bigger than this one?
- Now we are in the dairy section.
 - We need one dozen eggs. How many are in a dozen?
 - We need one gallon of milk. Where does milk come from?
- We also need orange juice. How do you think orange juice is made?
- Is this a healthy food or unhealthy food? Why?
- What is the smallest item in the cart? The largest item?

Grocery List

