

# Build listening & speaking skills to boost reading

Research shows that youngsters who have many opportunities to listen to and speak with others gain vital language skills. These skills are crucial parts of learning to read and write.

To help your preschooler develop his listening and speaking skills:

- **Have conversations with him.** Ask questions that require him to really think about the answer, such as, “Why did you paint the bird green?”
- **Have him make predictions** about what might happen next in a story you’re reading together. This will help your child become an “active” reader and stay focused on the story.
- **Reread a favorite story.** Have your child “chime in” with familiar phrases when he hears them.



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- **Play listening games.** Have him close his eyes, then see if he can identify various sounds around him (a lawnmower, wind chimes, etc.).