



THE NATIONAL CENTER ON
Quality Teaching
and Learning

THE NATIONAL CENTER ON
Parent, Family and
Community Engagement

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

ENGAGING CHILDREN IN CONVERSATIONS

Family time with books

When you look at a book with your child, you are spending special time together. Here are some ideas to make it even more interesting and fun:

Talk about the book in English or your home language.

You and your child can make up your own stories to go with the pictures!

Point to the words as you read them.

Connect the written words with the words you say.

Read with expression.

Have fun! Make up voices for the different characters.

Follow your child's lead.

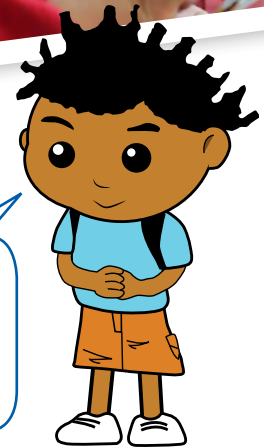
Read the book again? Choose another book? Finished reading? Let your child decide.

Comment on interesting pictures.

When your child points to a picture, make a comment.
"You see the bear's head? His head is peeking out from behind the tree."

Ask questions.

Wait for your child to answer. *"Why do you think Pedro is hiding under the table?"* (Pause) *"Oh my! Yes, the wolf came in the house!"*



*It's fun
when you
talk in a
different
voice!*

Enjoy reading together!

For more information, contact us at: NCQTL@UW.EDU or 877-731-0764.

This document was prepared for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, by the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning under Grant # 90HC0002 in collaboration with the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement under Grant #90HC0003.



Your child loves to spend time with you! Talking with your child in English or your home language is one very important way to show how much you care.

Talking with you helps your child:

**Build
relationships.**

**Learn new
words.**

**Practice
conversation
skills.**

**Communicate
clearly and
accurately.**



Ideas for talking with your child:

- Move to your child's level.
- Listen. What is your child saying?
- Match your child's tone—quiet, excited, serious.
- Take turns talking.
- Talk about what your child is doing or is interested in.
- Ask questions that encourage longer answers.
- Repeat what your child says, then add a little more information.
- Give your child time to answer.

For more information, contact us at: NCQTL@UW.EDU or 877-731-0764.

This document was prepared for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, by the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning under Grant # 90HC0002 in collaboration with the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement under Grant #90HC0003.