Did you know?

Researchers tell us that children who hear and use lots of words before they enter kindergarten are better prepared to succeed at reading and writing…so…

Repeat your baby’s babbling back to him/her
Respond to your baby’s signals with words
Tell your baby what you’re doing
Name things for your baby
Make sentences out of your toddler’s single words
Ask your toddler to point to objects and pictures
Ask your toddler questions
Sing with your children
Name and describe your children’s feelings
Name and describe your own feelings to your children
Discuss ways to solve problems
Say “please” and “thank you” to your children
Talk about people and places you visit together
Use interesting words to name and describe things
Choose TV shows carefully. Watch and discuss them together
Explain new words
Ask about your child’s thoughts and ideas
Respond to your child’s questions patiently
Tell your children about things that happen
Ask your children to tell you about things that happen to them
Look at photos and talk about things that happened in the past
Give your children new experiences and talk about them
Read fiction and non-fiction books together and talk about all you find there
Make mealtimes occasions for eating and talking together

For more information about ways to help your child get ready to read and write, talk to your local youth librarian or call Joan Laurion, Dane County UW Extension, 608-224-3722. UW-Ex provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA. Let us know if you need this material in an alternative format.

Handout for parents: Vocabulary