



Psssst....

Your child's success
is as easy as

1. talk 2. listen 3. read

Give your child the GIFT of a great start
and close the 30 million word gap!

It's EASY and FREE! Here's how ...

- Talk together a lot! To be good readers children need to know lots of words and what they mean.
- Tell family stories.
- Encourage conversations.
- Listen and ask questions.
- Teach nursery rhymes.
- Have fun with books, use different voices, have your child act out stories.
- Spend time at the library together, go to story times.
- Sing songs and make up rhymes.
- Read to your child everyday – not just picture books, but signs, shopping lists and labels too.
- Play, laugh, and have fun with your child.
- Go to the park.
- Show you care with hugs and attention.
- Encourage effort and trying hard, but give help when needed. Children feel good when they succeed!



Literacy Empowers All Families

Sponsorship by Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County, State of Florida, Office of Early Learning,
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Eliminate the 30 million Word Gap!

Research on early literacy and the 30 million word gap...

- **The brain develops most during the first years of life.** Children's early experiences have a big impact on their future ability to learn.
- The **amount** of **different** words children hear by age 3 is directly related to how well children can read at age 9.
- **Important** to children's future success is the amount of **praise** they receive.
- **Differences in families' language use and amount of praise are huge** and children's patterns of talk come to match their parents.
- Research shows that by age 3 children in more talkative families will have heard **30 million more words** than children in less talkative families – **a 30 million word gap!**
- And children in more talkative families will also have received **400,000 more encouragements** than children in less talkative families!
- By age 3, children from the most talkative and encouraging families scored approximately **25 points higher on IQ tests** than children from the least talkative and encouraging families.
- **These are lasting differences.** Children's scores on vocabulary, language, and school tests at age 9 showed a strong connection with their word use at age 3 and **an even stronger connection with the talking and praise they had received from their parents when they were very young.**

What happens in the early years can set the path for a child's entire life. To close the 30 million word gap be sure to talk more, listen more, read more, and praise more!

