



Your child will enjoy hearing stories in your home language.

- It's fun to use different voices for story characters.
- Read to a certain point in the story and ask your child to predict what might happen next and why.
- Try a variety of books, including family photo albums, and picture books without words.



There are many activities in the community to enjoy with your child.

- Local libraries have special programs in different languages and in English.
- Cultural and community events provide many opportunities to use your home language.
- Playing with family and friends at the park helps children learn how to interact and cooperate with others.

TDSB Speaks Many Languages

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is Canada's largest and most linguistically and culturally diverse school district. More than 50% of our students speak a language other than English at home and over 100 different languages are represented in the TDSB community.



Talk to your child in your home language throughout the day to build the skills for success at school.

Please visit the TDSB Website:
www.tdsb.on.ca

Developed by:
Department of English as a Second Language/
English Literacy Development
Speech-Language Pathology Services

Use Your Home Language

Building Skills with Young Children for School Success





Young children will do better in school when they have strong listening and speaking skills in their home language - even when classroom learning is in English.



Knowing words and concepts in the home language helps your child understand more about the world, and learn English faster.



There are many talking opportunities throughout the day to help your child develop strong home language skills.



You can use your home language to...

- Discuss the items your child will need to bring to school and why.
- Talk about choosing the right clothes for the weather.
- Ask your child what exciting events might happen during the day.



On the way home from school...

- Find out what your child learned that day.
- Discuss topics inspired by what you see, hear, and experience on your walk (e.g., different types of transportation, crawling and flying insects, big and small footsteps).



At the grocery store you can talk about the different types of food (e.g., dairy, grains, fruit), and which foods are tasty and nutritious.

- Your child can help you shop by following your directions (e.g., choose three apples, find brown rice).
- At home, your child can help unpack the groceries. Talk about where the items belong and why.



Mealtime is a natural conversation starter.

- Involve your child in food preparation, such as counting and measuring.
- Help your child learn describing words by talking about how food tastes (e.g., crunchy, salty, sweet).
- At dinner time, your family can share what happened during the day. Using words like "first" and "then" will help your child practice telling the story.