

Simple Steps to Help Your Child Learn Language and Math

You are your child's most important teacher! You provide him or her with the stimulating and interactive environment necessary to develop the skills that make mankind unique -- the ability to communicate with words and use numbers.

Children learn by example, so talk to your child often. Talk about what you're doing. Talk about what he or she is doing. Talk about the objects and people around you.

You can help your child learn that language is a give-and-take process by holding conversations with him or her. Show interest and enthusiasm when your child makes sounds and repeat them back. Ask questions and give your child time to respond, even if it's just with a coo or gurgle.

Read to your child often. Children appreciate the rhythm and repetition that children's books and poems provide. Books are also a great way to introduce your child to new words and ideas. Identify and describe the objects mentioned in the story or depicted in illustrations.

Reading can also help children develop a basic understanding of math. Many children's books help bring mathematical concepts, like numbers and counting, to life through illustrations and stories. Your enthusiasm towards math will make an impression on your child. So be sure to show excitement when he or she groups objects together in sets, or begins to learn the names of geometric shapes. Another way to make learning numbers fun is by encouraging your child to count objects he or she enjoys seeing, and touching -- like cookies, stuffed animals, or other toys.