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TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SPEAK WELL.

Using words well in speaking improves a child's understanding of words in print.

Help your child become a confident talker.

- Discourage baby talk, such as “Me want milk.” However, do not criticize the speech of a child who has trouble with certain sounds, such as *l*, *r*, *k*, or *g*. These are common problems that usually disappear with time.
- Encourage your child to call things by their correct names.
- Help your child organize her thoughts. For example, point out cause and effect relationships: dropping a glass causes it to break, cold weather causes us to wear more clothing to keep warm.
- Listen to your child, especially when she seems to have something important to say. Give her your complete attention.
- Talk with your child. Encourage talking about all experiences—shopping trips, vacations, cleaning the garage, and stories you have read.



Help your child feel secure away from home.

Begin by having your child play in another room while you remain within hearing range. Then encourage your child to play in the immediate area outdoors. Finally, permit your child to visit at a friend's house. In these early stages of separation, assure your child that you will not leave the house. Stay around the house, and expect your child to check on you now and then.

