

## A Love of Literacy!

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***“Every word you say builds your child’s brain!”***

### **Talk More with your child using descriptive words to build his/her vocabulary.**

- ⇒ **Read!** Books are the easiest way to build a child’s vocabulary and increase general knowledge.
- ⇒ **Let your child talk too!** Conversation should be reciprocal! Children learn best when they feel included and listened to.
- ⇒ **Extend the conversation!** Child: “This is a duck.” Parent: “Yes, that is a duck! I like the yellow feathers and orange beak. Where does the duck live?” Child: “In the lake.” Parent: “That’s right! The ducks habitat, or where it lives, is in water and along the shoreline. Do you want to go look for ducks at the lake, in its natural habitat?” Child: “Yes!”
- ⇒ **Expand their vocabulary!** At the grocery store: Child: “What is that thing?” Parent: “That pink, spiky fruit is called a dragonfruit!” Child: “Looks yummy!” Parent: “The fruit inside is white with black seeds and it is very nutritious!” Child: “I am excited to taste it.”
- ⇒ **Speak to your child in the language you know best.**

### **Take Turns by encouraging your child to respond to your words and actions.**

- ⇒ **During Play!** Play with your child as much as possible. This is a great chance to take turns with toys, use a variety of vocabulary and it builds a strong relationship.
- ⇒ **Diaper Changes:** Your baby may not be verbal yet, but as they gaze into your eyes they are communicating to you. As they gurgle and goo, they are communicating to you. Repeat their sounds and gazes.

*(Courtesy of thirtymillionwords.org)*

**“Children’s early experiences last a lifetime.”**

*-How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years, Ministry of Education*