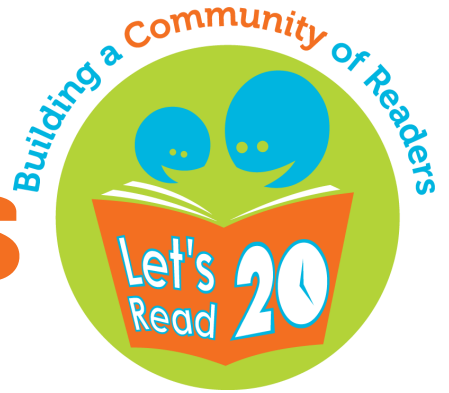


# Building Language Skills from Birth



Research shows that building a Language-rich environment from birth makes a big difference in a child's ability to speak, read, and write. Follow these tips to help your child develop language skills early in life.

## Talking & Language

**Look** at your child and **talk** to, with, and around her or him often during everyday activities - like when folding laundry or waiting in line - starting from birth.

**Speak** in your native language as often as possible.

**Pause** to give your child the chance to "speak" in sounds, grunts, coos, and eventually words and phrases. This helps build conversation skills.

**Encourage** family members, friends and others who might be around your child to talk with each other and with your child.



## Reading & Literacy

**Read** books to your child daily, starting at birth. Find books for children of all ages at your local Library - older ones can even pick their own.

**Point** to printed text and pictures while reading. Encourage the child to turn the book's pages, and let him or her touch the words and pictures on the pages, too.

**Talk** about what happen in the story and ask what might happen next.

**Ask** open-ended questions that start with who, what, when, why or how, and give your child a chance to answer using sounds and words.



Let's Read 20 c/o Marion Public Library  
445 E. Church Street, Marion, Ohio 43302  
740-387-0992

# TIP SHEET FOR PARENTS

*Information garnered from USA.gov and Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development*