

TALK with your child

Four simple ways to build your child's reading through everyday conversation.

T

Take turns

Talk, but also listen. Let your child finish the thought, then respond to what they actually said.

"So recess was the best part? What happened?"

A

Ask questions

Give your child chances to think and explain. Questions that start with *why* and *how* invite more words.

"Why do you think the character did that?"

L

Label and point

Point out new and interesting words in books, signs, and the world around you, and explain what they mean.

"That's a fire extinguisher. The foam blankets the flammable liquids to block oxygen and cool the fuel."

K

Keep the conversation going

Follow your child's interest and build on it. One more back-and-forth is a win.

"What would you have done if you were there?"

Use it anytime: on the way to school · at dinner · during homework · at bedtime

Any language. Any reading level. Five minutes or twenty.

Literacy advocate Maya Smart developed the TALK Method as part of her reading action plan for parents. Get the full plan in her book, *Reading for Our Lives: The Urgency of Early Literacy and the Action Plan to Help Your Child*. mayasmart.com · © 2026 Maya Smart. All rights reserved.

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