

# Help expand your child's language abilities



Strengthening language skills is critical to your child's reading development. Your child will use her language skills to express thoughts about what she reads. To build your child's language skills:

- **Have conversations with your child as often as possible.** Talk about the weather, what happened at school today or her favorite book. It doesn't matter what you talk about—just have as many conversations as you can!
- **Finish each other's sentences.** Start a sentence by saying something like, "My favorite thing about Grandma's house is ..." and have your child fill in the blank. Then switch!
- **Talk with your child about familiar places,** such as home, school and the park. Encourage her to think and associate by asking her questions: "Where is



your bed?" "Are there crayons and paper at the park?" "Where is the trail where you ride your bike?"

- **Teach your child new words** and their meanings. Then help her use these new words. For example, she may know the word *car*, but you can teach her *automobile*. Then ask questions such as, "Do people drive automobiles?" "Where do we keep our automobile?"