

Talk:

An Important Part of Learning

- Encourage them to participate in a school club, drama, theatre, or sport activity where they will hear others speak English and will have the opportunity to speak English themselves. Talk to them about these experiences.
- Talk with them about their future and what they dream of doing. They may like to hear about your dreams, too.
- Watch educational TV shows with them and talk about what you have learned.
- Visit places and events of interest in your community: parks, museums, heritage and natural history sites, festivals, celebrations, cultural events, etc. Talk about what you experienced.

*You will be helping your children develop thinking and speaking skills in your home language **and** in English by listening carefully and patiently, and interacting with them.*

VSB

“Talk: An Important Part of Learning”

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Canada



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“The aim of English Language Arts is to provide students with opportunities for personal and intellectual growth through speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing, and representing to make meaning in the world, and to prepare them to participate effectively in all aspects of society.”

BC Ministry of Education

Children learn to think, read and write by creating meaning through a wide variety of experiences. They learn to ‘talk’ through living and interacting with other people. Talk is extremely important and helps to develop thinking. In BC schools, both listening and speaking are important skills that students learn and use throughout their education.

Listening and speaking skills are:

- essential to the development of children’s thinking;
- fundamental to the learning of reading and writing;
- a foundation for academic learning; and
- a key element for the development of social skills.

Teachers foster the development of listening and speaking through purposeful tasks and activities such as:

- one-on-one conversations between teacher and child.
- pair work where two students work together to complete a task and share understandings with each other and with the class.
- strategies that enable students to become aware of **how** they think and learn.

Many learning activities require students to talk to each other. Examples include: readers’ theatre, role playing, problem solving, acting, collaborative research projects, debates and discussions.

How can parents help children develop listening and speaking skills at home?

- Talk with them about their daily activities and experiences and share your own. Ask them what they did at school that day, what they liked the most, what they liked the least, and **why**. Listen to their answers.
- Talk about books together. Discuss the characters and events in the story.
- Talk about their successes and any concerns they are having.