

Families are
Children's
First
Teachers

Talk in the language of your family about where you are going and what you see out the window.

Sing together. Use silly words. Make up funny rhymes

Use the time with your child in the car to talk, play games, sing songs, and notice the world around you. Every family has errands they need to run, places they need to be, and children who have to go along for the ride. Once your child is buckled into the car seat or seatbelt, talk about where you are going. As you drive, **talk about what you see out the window. Point out familiar places, flowering trees, and other vehicles.** "Oh, look. There's a dump truck!" "There's our grocery store – we're almost there."

With your preschooler, play "I Spy" and look for signs that are a certain color or shape. "I spy something yellow. Do you see the school bus?" "I see a big, green circle."

Sing songs together. The rhyming words in songs help children learn more about how language works. "Twinkle, twinkle, little star. How I wonder what you are."

Make up silly rhymes. Use your child's name and make rhymes with it. "Christopher, Bistopher, Mistopher." Or do the same with other words: "We're going to the grocery store, mocery store, pocery store."

"Read" signs as you drive. Ask him to find a stop sign or a fast food restaurant.



Download the **"Families are Children's First Teachers"** materials and related documents at www.newmexicokids.org under the *Caregivers & Educators* tab.

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Learning Opportunities Include:

- Exploring the world
- Demonstrating curiosity
- Communicating with others
- Recognizing rhyming sounds

When You Both Are in the Car