

Families are
Children's
First
Teachers

Idea #2

When you are cooking or cleaning up, have your child nearby so you can talk together.

Talking with your child is important!

For Babies:

- Place him in a safe place close to you so he can see and hear you.
- Talk with him about what you are doing.
- If he makes noises back, babble back and forth with him. Even though you may feel silly, you are teaching him how to have a conversation.

For Toddlers or Preschoolers:

- Have her sit at the kitchen table and draw pictures or build with connecting blocks as you take care of your chores.
- Talk with her in the language of your family about what you are doing. Use new words. Ask questions.
- Let her tell you her ideas.
- If she says something incorrectly, model the appropriate way to say it instead of correcting her directly.

Language helps a child's brain organize and grasp concepts, learn more about social interactions, and make sense of things. The more you talk with your child, the more you are expanding the number of words she knows and helping her learn how language works!



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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When You Are in the Kitchen

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Learning Opportunities Include:

- Socializing and communicating with others
- Learning new words