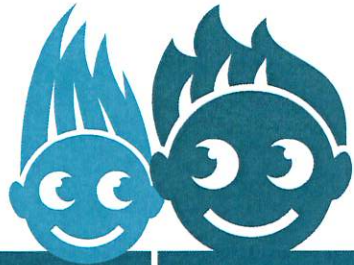


Workshop I: Parent Time Handout

Responsive Parent-Child Interactions

Children can learn a lot through conversations. The way adults speak to children is important. Children learn how to listen when adults talk to them. They also learn new words when they hear adults use them. Here are some tips for listening and responding to children that will help them learn and grow.



Get on the child's level. Try to be eye-to-eye with one another. You may need to sit, bend down, or kneel. Children will feel more comfortable talking to an adult who is on their level rather than standing over them.

Encourage Talk	Model Conversations	Add More
Respond when children speak to you.	Conversations help children learn to be listeners.	Children learn new words by listening to others speak.
Use questions or prompts, like the ones below, that encourage children to say more.	Show children how to make eye contact with the speaker. Also teach children to stay on the same topic when they respond.	When your family does things together, talk about what you are doing. This talk helps children understand how to speak about what they do, see, or hear.
<i>What do you want to tell me?</i>	Adult: <i>Tell me about school today.</i>	Child: (Building with blocks.)
<i>Tell me more about _____.</i>	Child: <i>I played soccer at recess.</i>	Adult: <i>Wow! Look at all those blocks you have stacked. I wonder how many more you can add?</i>
<i>Why did you think of that?</i>	Adult: <i>I'm glad you played soccer. It is good exercise. Tell me more about your game.</i>	
<i>How did...?</i>		
<i>How were you feeling when that happened?</i>		

Repeat Words Repeat Words Repeat Words Repeat Words Repeat Words Repeat

Repeat what children say when you respond to them. Use the same words they use. Build on children's thinking and language. Add more to what they say.

Child: (pointing) *Bird.*

Adult: *You are right it is a bird with red feathers. Where do you think it is going?*

