Countdown to Kindergarten
Week I: “Talking”

Talking with your child now is important to your child’s success in school!

Studies show that the more words a young child hears at home, the more success they will have in learning to read.

How to help your child now:
* Buy an echo microphone (look at the dollar store for these!) and encourage your child to tell stories or sing into it.
* Sing songs with words that begin with the same sound repeated throughout (example: “Willoughby Wallaby Woo”).

There is a connection between natural conversation now and reading later!

How to help your child now:
* Ask questions about the pictures and the story while you read together.
* Identify objects and words as you play together.
* Read wordless books together — ask your child to tell the story by looking at the pictures.
* Talk about items at the grocery store as you shop together.
* Make up stories together.
* Make it fun!

Books that encourages language and vocabulary development:
- Bark George by Jules Feiffer
- Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff
- Bee & Bird by Craig Frazier

Music that encourages language and vocabulary development:
- Buzz Buzz; Victor Vito; We are the Dinosaurs — Laurie Berkner
- Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes for Modern Times — Jim Gill
- Music Time with SteveSongs — Steve Songs
- Ella Jenkins 123s and ABCs — Ella Jenkins

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