








7 ways to promote oracy at home

Try these techniques to help your child become a more confident communicator, in school and at home.

	<p>Reading aloud to your child: Reading aloud to your child, well beyond the age they can read for themselves, combines the benefits of talking, listening and storytelling within one activity that helps children build their vocabulary, learn to express their thoughts, and understand the structure of language.</p>
	<p>Record a video diary: Many kids aspire to being vloggers or YouTube stars, so encourage them to start a video diary, either to chart their everyday life or to record special occasions like birthdays and holidays. For safety's sake, keep these within the family rather than broadcasting them online.</p>
	<p>Play word games: Games like 20 Questions, Guess Who? and I Spy are great for helping children use descriptive language and think critically about what they're saying</p>
	<p>Talk about their day: Ask your child, 'What did you do today?' and they'll often claim they can't remember, so find different ways to talk about what they've been up to. Eating your evening meal as a family is a good way to encourage conversation, while older kids are often more chatty in the car, where they feel less like they're being interrogated.</p>
	<p>Phone a friend or relative: Persuade your child to take a break from text and WhatsApp and develop their speaking skills by making an actual phone call.</p>
 <p><small>© CanStockPhoto.com</small></p>	<p>Go on a nature walk: This is a great pre-phonics activity for young children, who can be encouraged to listen carefully to the sounds they hear - from traffic to birdsong - and describe them. They can also describe the natural sights they see, such as trees, animals and birds and the sky.</p>
	<p>Sign them up for a club: Joining extracurricular clubs is a good opportunity for your child to converse with different people outside the home or school environment. Many of them also involve taking instructions (such as being coached in sporting techniques or to complete science or art projects), and introduce them to different vocabulary relating to their new hobby.</p>