

# How does developing my child's oral language help him to learn to read?

Oral language is one of the very first language skills that children learn. Before reading begins, children learn to speak in a natural process by interacting with people and "trying-out" the language. Oral language in many ways sets the stage for reading. Children who have poor oral language abilities, tend to have a more difficult time learning to read.

Here at Roosevelt we assist oral language development by encouraging our students to interact in conversations. We have them tell and retell stories and events. We discuss a wide range of topics. We ask open-ended questions and we help children to express their ideas.

Some of the activities that take place in our kindergarten classrooms that help to promote your child's oral language include:

**Circle Time** which could include sharing time, show and tell, news of the day and/or songs and rhymes.



**Read-alouds** where a book is chosen and read aloud to the

children. Read-alouds not only help to develop a child's oral language by exposing him to new and rich vocabulary, it also helps to develop book knowledge, word knowledge and written language patterns or "language play."



**Small Group Instruction** where children are taught descriptive language through direct language instruction. And **Centers** including dramatic play, theme and content area centers where children learn oral language through talking and interacting with others.

To help your child to develop his oral language you can;

- Listen closely to him,
- Extend his conversations,
- Ask him questions,
- Model rich vocabulary,
- Provide him with social interactions with other children,
- Read to him often.