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## WE CAN TALK © Rachel Arntson, 2009

### Tips for enhancing your child's speech and language

By Rachel Arntson, M.S., CCC-SLP © Rachel Arntson, 2009

- W** Wait, Watch, and Wonder about what your child is communicating.
- E** Examine your position. Exaggerate and entice with your gestures and voice to increase imitation.
  
- C** Comment about what you and your child are doing, seeing, and enjoying.
- A** Add singing throughout your day. Children love and learn from music.
- N** Notice when your child initiates communication. Respond and add to it.
  
- T** Take turns talking, giving your child time to respond. Keep it going.
- A** Ask questions to decrease frustration, but use them carefully.
- L** Laugh a lot! Laughing together is a great way to get talking started.
- K** Keep books handy. Your child needs a daily dose of reading.

Remember that “**The best way to change a child's communication ability or behavior is to first change your own.**” Belief in that will get you far in helping your child learn and develop. Never stop thinking about how you can improve your positive interactions. Have fun! Parenting is the toughest but most rewarding job you will ever have, so throwing a bit of fun into the mix is essential.

Finally, if there is a simple way to take these skills to a basic theme, it would be this: Spend time talking to, listening to, and watching your child as he attempts to communicate with you.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Rachel Arntson, M.S., CCC-Speech-Language Pathologist



Where speech and language soar as kids sing, play, and explore.