

Learning to Communicate Effectively: First Grade

Developing listening and speaking skills will help your child:

- Start and maintain conversations
- Ask and answer questions
- Notice whether or not others understand what he is talking about



Ideas to try with your child:

- Find opportunities to talk with your child about a variety of topics, such as:
 - His favorite book, TV show, or movie
 - What he did at school that day, or anything exciting that is happening at school
 - Upcoming family events and what you will be doing
- Play the 20 questions game:
 - Pick an object, a person, or a place. Tell your child the category that you picked. Your child can only ask 20 questions to get clues to guess the object, person, or place, with questions like: “Is the object blue?” Play it again and let your child pick an item for you to guess.

If your child is struggling:

- Role-play ways that he can start conversations with friends: “Hi Conner, what part of the game did you like this afternoon?”
- Create a calendar of upcoming school or family events. Help your child mark off days to count down to a specific event. Discuss this event with your child- What is happening? What will he be doing?

Going further:

- Enroll your child in clubs or groups where he will have many opportunities to participate in conversations with his peers.
- Practice nonverbal communication with your child. Facial expressions and body language are important! Charades is a great game you can play with your child to practice this skill.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children in First Grade** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Start a conversation about a topic of interest.” *Communicating (Literacy)*, First Grade, pg. 102