

Oregon's Early Learning and Kindergarten Guidelines

Language and Communication

Language and communication refers to the ability to express and understand thoughts and feelings. Skills in this area include:

- Using language or gestures
- Listening to others
- Asking questions
- Communicating thoughts, feelings, and ideas
- Answering questions
- Following directions
- Using new words
- Listening to and responding to others
- Pointing and using nonverbal gestures
- Telling stories as an aspect of family or culture

Adults can help support children's development in this area by:

- Sharing conversations
- Asking questions
- Using new words
- Creating opportunities to make choices
- Reading books with rhymes
- Encouraging children to communicate with each other
- Playing word games
- Singing songs
- Supporting development of the child's home language
- Encouraging every child to communicate, whether through spoken language, gestures, or communication devices

