

# Building

**emotional learning and literacy**  
*Family Connection*

Capital District  
**Child Care Council** Encouraging Literacy Education and Parent Engagement (LEAPE)

## Play, Language and Learning Connections

Play is often called “a child’s work.” Children are natural explorers when it comes to play. They are curious, ask questions, and take delight in simple things. A closer look at this “work” shows that real learning is taking place during these magical moments of childhood.

### Talk With Me - What Your Infant Learns

Children understand the meaning of what is being said at a very early age. Be a storyteller and describe things you see in the environment. For example, take your infant to the window and describe what you see.

#### How does this benefit my child?

Hearing the sound of your voice helps the child to understand the patterns of language. You talk, your child coos. This back and forth communication is a conversation between you and the child. This conversation lets the child know they are important to the adults in their life.

### Give Me More to Talk About - What Your Toddler Learns

Toddlers love to do things over and over again. When a little one repeatedly asks, “What is that?” this is an opportunity to label and describe the color, textures and shapes that you see. For example, “Yes, a red apple, it is crunchy!”

#### How does this benefit my child?

By expanding sentences to more than one word we are helping children to build a rich vocabulary and understand the structure of how we speak. A rich vocabulary is helpful to children as they begin to read and develop an understanding of stories.

### Join Me in the Fun - What Your Preschooler Learns

Preschoolers love to be silly and play with words. Take trips to the library to choose books like Mr. Brown Cow Can Moo Can You or Fox in Socks by Dr. Seuss. In a crunch for time and can’t get to the library? Make up your own stories. It’s simple! Choose a story starter from below and follow your child’s lead. When your child seems stuck or pause fill in the blanks to keep the story going.

*When I was little...*

*Once upon a time...*

*In a land far away...*

#### How does this benefit my child?

Encouraging imagination helps support creativity. Children learn social skills as they take turns with the adult, making up the story together. Reading and storytelling helps children understand that stories have a beginning, middle and end. This is an early literacy skill needed later on.



**Play is a  
Child’s Work  
~Jean Piaget**

For more BELL tips, call  
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