

## **R**eadng books with your child can help them with their talking because it can:

 **encourage correct pronunciation**

Reading books with your child before he/she can even talk, can be a great way to expose him/her to early-developing speech sounds, which can assist in later sound production.

 **have a positive influence on your child's literacy skills**

Research has shown that early exposure to printed words has a positive effect on the development of literacy skills. Literacy includes listening, understanding, speaking, reading, and writing.

 **play an important role in your child's acquisition of pre-reading skills prior to school**

Parents who read to their children are introducing them to sound awareness, letter and sound recognition, and improved vocabulary skills. Before they start school, these children are aware of the nature and purpose of reading. Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.

 **help with concept development**

Concepts are words that indicate location (e.g. up/down), time (e.g. before/after), number (e.g. lots/none), description (e.g. big/little), and feelings (e.g. happy/sad). Understanding of basic concepts is an early building block for school readiness.

 **help build a rich vocabulary**

Reading with your child will help him/her to become familiar with new words. Research has shown that children who acquire a substantial vocabulary are often able to think more deeply, express themselves better, and learn new things more quickly. They are also very likely to be successful at learning to read and to continue reading at or above grade-level throughout their school years. Most children start school knowing between 3,000 and 5,000 words.

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 **support sentence structure learning**

The language of books exposes your child to a different language structure as the form and feel of written language is quite different from spoken language.

 **increase attention span and behaviour control**

Listening to a story and sitting still when necessary are skills that will help your child become a capable learner.

 **prepare for later success in school**

Children who have been read to, who know nursery rhymes and chants, who hear a great deal of language, and who are familiar with many words are at a tremendous advantage.

 **encourage learning to read**

Research shows that oral language skills and sound and print awareness are foundational skills in learning to read.

 **promote strong language skills**

Language supports literacy and literacy supports language development.

 **teach sequencing**

Stories help children understand that things happen in order (first, next, last) and that there is a beginning, a middle, and an end.

 **teach new information about the world around them**

There are an abundance of objects, places, events and situations awaiting in books, that your child may not have experienced before.

For more ideas on helping your child with talking, or if you have concerns about their speech-language development, contact the Cochrane District Early Childhood Speech and Language Service, 267-1181 (in Timmins) or 1-877-442-1212 (Cochrane District).