

# Partners in Learning

## Video Suite



### Oral language development

While reading instruction typically begins when children enter formal schooling, reading success is founded in strong oral language competency. A great deal of research has demonstrated strong links between early oral language skills and subsequent literacy achievements.

### What is discussed in this video?

The speech language pathologist discusses links between oral language skills and literacy development and how parents, carers and educators can support literacy development in the early years.

### What are the key messages that can be used to inform the school community?

- Typically children learn language by hearing language around them.
- The more experiences the child is exposed to, the more language they will learn to describe their thoughts, feelings and ideas.
- Literacy-rich environments provide children with opportunities to learn about, interact with, and experiment with print.
- Make reading and writing materials easily accessible.
- Literacy and language development can be promoted through interactive shared reading experiences.
- Observing – look out for verbal initiations, facial expressions, body posture and eye gaze when engaged in interactive shared reading.
- Waiting – remember, children need more time to formulate responses to questions and comments when engaged in interactive shared reading.
- Listening – pay close attention to what the child is saying so you can respond appropriately.
- Being face-to-face – when you are face-to-face, you can read the child's cues to find out what interests him/her about the book.

