An early learning collaboration by:

Family Activity

Young children are naturally curious about the world around them. Paying attention to what their senses are telling them can spark interaction and teach new words. Every sensory experience is an opportunity to develop new language!

Language Learning Through Five Senses

The next time you’re looking out a window or out of the house with your child, ask your child these questions about the world around them:

- **How does it feel?** Touch is often how children experience the world. Let kids feel certain textures. Then help them give each a name (“Your sweater is really soft” or “The carpet is fuzzy.”).

- **Breathe deeply.** When taking a walk, point out the smells in your world (“Mmm…this bread from the bakery smells fresh! Let’s smell it!”).

- **Do you see what I see?** Even looking out the window together and pointing at what you see is an opportunity for conversation. (Kids’ babbles, coos, and gestures count!)

- **It’s a matter of taste.** Talk about how things taste in your mouth (“Does that juicy watermelon taste sweet?”) This will help build kids’ vocabulary.

- **Listen up!** When you are out, talk about what you hear (“Do you hear the cars beeping?” “The wind is rattling the branches.”). Helping kids tune in to sounds is also a great way to build listening skills.

Family Reading Tip: Rhyme Makes Great Storytime

Repetition makes books predictable, and young readers love knowing what comes next! Kids get to enjoy the “sing-song” quality of rhymes, the language and the word play all while learning new words, ideas and how language works. Encourage your little one to pretend to read, especially books that contain repetition and rhyme! When your child anticipates what’s coming next in a story or poem, they feel a sense of mastery over reading. You can even clap or tap out the rhythm as you read together.

Poetry Month

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All books are available at your local libraries or click on each book cover for read-aloud links!