

Education Corner, by Irene Long

Language is achieved primarily by talking, singing, and reading to your children.

Talk all the time, tell stories, and generate questions...

“Once upon a time, there was a little boy and his name was...and he loved to play on the ...Create the story together. Let your child fill in the blanks. Use questioning to elicit responses. Where is the sun? Can you find the moon?

Sing songs and play tonal and rhythmic music. Sing about your chores. “This is the way we brush our teeth...” Repeat the same songs over and over. It makes children feel secure when they can predict outcomes.

Most importantly, READ, READ, READ. Ask your child to choose from an assortment of books that you select. Title talk...what do you think this book will be about...I see a bear on the cover with honey. Maybe it’s about a bear that is hungry ...

Use questioning to aid in vocabulary development and comprehension. What’s a cave? Is it warm? Good readers visualize what is happening in the text.

Stop after each sentence ... talk about what you read.
Use phrasing to chunk information. The boy and the
girl... went down the hill.