


## New Mexico PreK The Three T's - Tune In, Talk More, and Take Turns

Research has shown that the number of words children hear can help to predict their academic success in later grades. In addition, by the time children go into kindergarten, they should have heard at least 30 million words (Suskind, 2016). That is about 20,000 words a day that children should be hearing in language around them. It is not just the number of words that is important, but the quality of interactive, child-directed conversations is also important. Conversations should respond to children's comments, questions, and understandings. The Three-T's strategy - **Tune In, Talk More**, and **Take Turns** - supports language-stimulation (Paulson & Moats, 2018).

(EI 5.3 Vocabulary; 6.1 Conversational Ability; 7.4a Rhyme; 7.4b Phonological Awareness)

Tune In	Talk More	Take Turns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice what engages and interests a child. Then, at an appropriate opportunity, facilitate a conversation with the child about that interest.</li> <li>• Examples include: discussing favorite books, asking questions while building with blocks, and talking during mealtime.</li> <li>• Children need repetition to build upon their development. When children want to reread their favorite book over and over again, this is a time you can tune into their interests and help to develop their language skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Again, "talk more" is not simply the quantity of words. More importantly, it is the quality of what is said.</li> <li>• Both the <b>amount of talk</b> and the <b>kind of talk</b> that children hear are predictive of their educational performance in later grades.</li> <li>• Be sure to talk <b>with</b> children instead of <b>to</b> them. This will help build their comprehension as well as their oral language.</li> <li>• Use child-directed speech (melodic with a singsong rhythm, high pitched, positive tone, simplified vocabulary, and sentences) to help brain development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in back and forth conversations with children. This turn-taking exchange is most valuable.</li> <li>• It is important to talk with children every day and intentionally use new words to build their vocabulary.</li> <li>• "Strive for 5" means attempt for 5 conversation exchanges between an adult and a child or a group of children.</li> </ul> 

### References:

- Paulson, L. H., & Moats, L. C. (2018). *LETRS for Early Childhood Educators*. Boston, MA: Cambium Learning.
- PED. (2020). *New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines*.
- Suskind, D. (2016). *Thirty million words: building a child's brain*. Place of publication not identified: Dutton.