

## Language Through Science Takeaway Tips for Parents

The basis of the Language Through Science program is to reinforce Leap Language Techniques through science activities. Leap Language Techniques increase the complexity of children's dialog. You can use these techniques at mealtime, as you are reading to your child, walking down the street and just talking to your child!

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### The Six Leap Language Techniques:

- **Build associations between concepts and content**

Use connecting words to help children think critically.

Be sure that you spend time talking about your child's world, which is much different than an adult's world. Children learn faster when we relate and build associations between concepts and content that interest them.

*"Apples are usually red but have you ever eaten a green apple?" "Do yellow apples taste the same as green and red apples?"  
"Tell me how you would make a cake."*

- **Build new vocabulary**

Words are Free! Teach children new words.

Use harder words that are unfamiliar to children . Build new vocabulary for them and repeat them— often!

*"Let's talk about dinosaurs. I think the Tyrannosaurus Rex was the most gigantic of all."  
I want you to meet your Uncle Sam. He is one of your ancestors. That means he is part of our family. You could even call him kin."*

- **Use open-ended questions**

Ask questions that are answered with more than one answer.

Ask children questions that have many answers to help them think. It's easy for them to answer yes/no questions— let's stretch their minds and use open-ended questions!

*"Let's find everything red that we can in this room."  
"How do you know when you are hungry?"*

- **Engage prior knowledge**

Connect children’s past experiences to what they are doing in the present.

When children think about what they have done in the past, it is easier for them to talk about those experience. Engaging their prior knowledge is a great way to help them become comfortable and continue to talk and talk and talk!

*“Looking at this book about trains reminds me of the time we took the train to Milwaukee. Remember how fast it went? Tell me what you remember when we took that train ride?”*

*“What kind of party should we have for your birthday? Let’s make a list of everything we did last year.”*



- **Use think alouds and talk alongs**

Respond to children and share your experiences with them by incorporating self talk.

When you tell children your experiences by thinking aloud and talking along, children get to hear your ideas. They love hearing your stories, too.

*“Please help me set the table. I think we need plates, forks, spoons, napkins. Oh wait; maybe we don’t need spoons because we are having meatloaf, green beans, and cookies for desert.”*

*“I love taking the bus. When I was 10 my mom took me on a bus and we went to....”*

- **Reinforce sounds, letters, and rhymes**

Create opportunities for literacy learning through everyday activities and conversation.

Give your child a head start on learning by reinforcing sounds, letters, and rhymes. They will love it and begin to repeat sounds and word they hear.

*“Bella– B-B-B-Bella. Your name starts with the letter B. Let’s think of other people’s names that start with the letter B. Bobby– B-B-B-Bonny, Brenda– B-B-B...”*

*“I’m thinking of an animals that goes oink and the first letter of the animal’s name is P– P-P-P. What animal is it?”*