

# CARES Program

May 2007

## Tips for Building Language in Young Children

### Advisory Committee Members:

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- Elizabeth Blakemore,  
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This information is designed for parents and caregivers of small children. You will find a variety of suggestions and tips for incorporating language teaching into everyday life. Some suggestions may or may not be appropriate for your particular child or children.

- **Keep communication experiences positive.** Reward good speech and behavior by telling him you are proud of him and pay compliments when he tries new things (even when you do not understand every word.) For many children, attempting to communicate has become associated with failure. Be enthusiastic and genuinely interested when he wants to share something with you.
- **Show your interest.** Get down to the child's level. Look her in the eye when she has something to say. Pay close attention to what she's doing right now. Repeat what she said, or what you think she said. This will help her feel good about her communication.
- **Gesture and sign language communication is an important part of typical language development.** If the child is gesturing rather than talking, it is best to speak the words that reflects the child's intent. Research states that gestures and sign language as a means to communicate only empower children and assist in the development of verbal language.
- **Remember the 2+ rule.** Children can typically understand 2 more words when they are speaking. In other words, if a child uses 1-2 word utterances, she can understand 3-4 word phrases/sentences. Remember to keep your language simple, short, and slow. This is so important to remember when you give a child directions.
- **Use Information Talk.** Discuss what he is doing at the moment, what he has just done, and what he is about to do. For example, "Oh you put the yellow block on top. Now you're sliding the green one next to the long red block. The tower is getting taller! I wonder which block you will use next?"
- **Use repetition and redundancy.** For example, "Let's put on your shoes. Where are your shoes? Oh, here they are. Let's put on your shoes." Children need to hear words many times before they are able to say them.
- **Speech sounds develop at different ages.** The earliest sounds to make are m, p, b, w, and n. The sounds that are the most difficult are r, l, th, and j as in jump. Aim for the improvement in one sound at a time. For example, if she says, "sippa" for zipper, and then is able to say "zippa", congratulate her efforts and move on.
- **Expand the child's statements.** One of the most crucial things you can do to help a child learn language is to build his immature statements into mature statements. If the child says, "Billy up", you can expand the utterance to "Billy wants up." As the child uses more language, you can also build upon his language and add a little of your own. For example:  
**Child:** "Truck broke"  
**Adult:** "The truck is broken. It looks funny."  
**Child:** "Doggie up"  
**Adult:** "The doggie jumped up. Spot is a big dog."

Sources: Kelli Snipes SLP, "Speech and Language Partners"  
 Stephanie Perrett SLP, "20 Tips for Improving Speech and Language in Young Children"  
 "Good Talking With You: Language Acquisition Through Conversation," video series through Educational Productions  
 Cindi Kaup, MA Special Education Specialist, CPIN

## Upcoming Events:

### Various Play & Learn Sessions in Placerville and Shingle Springs-

Please contact Rene Line, Children's Teacher/ECE Specialist, Choices for Children to enroll or for more info. 530.676.0707

### El Dorado Family Childcare Network Meeting-

Monday, May 14, 2007

6:30pm

Choices for Children

For more info., please contact

Elizabeth Welch, Choices for Children,

530.676.0707 ext. 223

### Directors' Network Dinner-

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

6:00pm

Papa Gianni's Ristorante, Cameron Park

For more info., please contact

Choices for Children 530.676.0707

### The Business of Family Child Care-

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Thursday, August 23, 2007

6:00pm-9:00pm

To register or for more info.,

please contact Choices for Children

530.676.0707

### Working with Parents-

Thursday, May 31, 2007

6:00pm-9:00pm

For more info., please contact

Choices for Children 530.676.0707

### Family Child Care Licensing Orientation-

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

8:30am-12:30pm

For more info., please contact

Choices for Children 530.676.0707

### Mandated Child Abuse Reporting-

Thursday, June 28, 2007

6:00pm-9:00pm

For more info., please contact

Choices for Children 530.676.0707

### CPR & First Aid-

Saturday, July 14, 2007

Saturday, August 18, 2007

8:00am-5:00pm

For more info., please contact

Choices for Children 530.676.0707

### El Comienzo Training-

A FREE 2-day, Spanish language training for Hispanic child care providers, licensed or license-exempt, held in South Lake Tahoe. Transportation provided for participants living on the western slope; stipends available for participants needing child care; snacks, lunch, beverages provided. \$250 IN GIVEAWAYS FOR PARTICIPANTS UPON COMPLETION OF TRAINING.

Saturday, May 19, 2007

Saturday, June 2, 2007

8:30am-4:00pm

For more info., please contact

Choices for Children 530.676.0707

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Annual Day for Early Childhood Conference with Bev Bos-

Saturday, September 8, 2007

Details to follow

For more info., please contact

Choices for Children 530.676.0707

# 2007 - 2008 CARES Program News -

2007—2008 applications will be available on **Tuesday, May 15, 2007!** Current participants will receive one in the mail.

Other ways to obtain an application:

Drop by the CARES office and pick one up **OR** Visit the website ([www.edcares.org](http://www.edcares.org)) to download and print one

### Note:

In order to be considered for the 2007—2008 program year, you must submit an application.

Successful applicants will be notified in July 2007.

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, June 19, 2007 by 5:00pm** Contact info: Julie Irwin, CARES program 530.295.2327

# Education News -

## Los Rios Community College District

Fall 2007 instruction begins on Mon., Aug. 27, 2007!

Sat. and Sun. classes begin on Aug. 25 & 26, 2007!

### REGISTER EARLY!

For more info., please call the following numbers:

American River College 916.484.8152

Cosumnes College 916.691.7411

Folsom Lake College 916.608.6500

Sacramento City College 916.558.2351

Online info.: [www.losrios.edu](http://www.losrios.edu)

## Adult Basic Education Classes

Do you need assistance with basic Math, Reading and/or Writing?

If you are interested and/or need more information, please contact Carolyn Zachry, Adult Education Coordinator, EDCOE.

**530.622.7130. ext 411**



## Online Coursework Resource

California Virtual Campus:

[www.cvc.edu](http://www.cvc.edu)

**Note:** It is your responsibility to make sure course work is accepted by the California Commission on Teaching Credentialing for permit purposes and/or course work is transferable to a 4-year university.

## El Dorado County CARES Program

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