



# Language Modeling and Conversations

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## Why conversations are important

Conversations are back-and-forth exchanges that provide opportunities for language modeling. They are important because they help develop language, social, and cognitive skills.

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## How to start conversations

Having conversations isn't always easy and sometimes it's hard to get started. Here are some questions to get you started:

**What are you doing?**

**What's happening?**

**How did you do that?**

**Describe what you see.**

**Where does that go?**

There are also questions that present the opportunity for children to think critically, do some problem solving, and use their imaginations, such as:

**I wonder what would happen if...?**

**What else could we do?**

**What happens next?**

**Tell me the steps for...?**

**What would you do if...?**

## Suggestions for using the posters

Conversations happen throughout the day in all areas of the classroom. The posters help get you started. Give them to volunteers to help them start conversations with children or share them with parents and staff. Post them in various areas of the classroom, remember to rotate them out over the course of the year, and create your own.



## Let's Talk About Toothbrushing

Conversations are reciprocal back-and-forth exchanges. Here are some ideas to get conversations started.

Why do we brush our teeth?

Tell me about your last visit to the dentist.

When do you brush your teeth at home?

How do you brush your teeth?

How does the toothpaste feel in your mouth?

How do you hold your toothbrush?

What else can we do to keep our teeth healthy?

What happens if we don't brush our teeth?

What do you like about brushing your teeth?





## Let's Talk About Handwashing

Conversations are reciprocal back-and-forth exchanges. Here are some ideas to get conversations started.

Why do we wash our hands?

Why does the water look different when you wash the paint off your hands?

Where do you think the germs go when you wash your hands?

When do you wash your hands at home?

What are the steps for washing your hands?

What does the soap smell like? Does it smell the same or different at home?

What can happen when we don't wash our hands?

How can you make bubbles when you are washing your hands?

How does the soap feel? Does it feel the same or different at home?

