

Birth to  
Five

## TIPS FOR ENGAGING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IN CONVERSATIONS

Teachers play a critical role in developing language-rich classroom environments. Here are a few practical ways in which teachers can support and engage children in conversations.

### SET THE STAGE:

- Get down on the child's level.
- Listen to what the child says.
- Match the tone of the conversation to the child's affect.
- Take turns in talking.



### START THE CONVERSATION:

- Talk about what the child is doing or what the child is interested in.
- Ask questions that relate to the child's experiences or interests.
- Add to what the child says and model new language.
- Give the child enough time to respond.

