LEARNING IS EVERYWHERE, SO TALK, READ AND SING WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT EVERYTHING!
IT WILL BUILD THEIR BRAINS AND MAKE ALL FUTURE LEARNING EASIER!
IT’S ALSO A GREAT WAY TO LOVE THEM!

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education.
IN YOUR HOME

• Find matching socks while sorting laundry. Talk about why they match.
• Talk about colors or shapes of things in your home.
• Talk about hot and cold in the kitchen.
• Talk about the number of plates you will need for everyone in your family when setting the table.
• See what floats and sinks in the water at bath time.
• Sing and dance together.
• Tell your children stories about your life and about their life – the day they were born, good memories from your childhood, pets you had, the places you have been, foods you loved...
• Always make time to answer your child’s questions.
WHEN YOU ARE OUTSIDE

• Talk about the weather, the sun, the breeze, the rain. Use descriptive words like “chilly, crisp, sweltering, mild, bright, gloomy…

• Talk together about sizes, shapes and colors that you see.

• Notice the sounds that you hear; birds chirping, dogs barking, leaves rustling, cars running, doors slamming... Talk together about all of it.

• Walk, run, twirl, skip, hop, and jump together. Have fun and talk together about what you are doing and how it makes you feel.

• Count things like sidewalk squares, houses, cars, people, bugs and birds.

• Touch things – trees, grass, fences, parked cars, stones, flowers, snow....and talk together about how each thing feels.

• Always make time to answer your child’s questions.

GREATSTART.ORG/TALKINGISTEACHING
AT THE GROCERY STORE

• Talk about sizes, shapes and colors of fruits and vegetables. Use words such as bigger/smaller, lighter/darker, rough/smooth...
• Talk about foods that are for breakfast, lunch, dinner or snacks. Talk about items that are “food” and “not food.”
• Count items as you put them in your cart and as you unload them.
• Ask your child to find things of a certain color or shape. Let your child ask you to find things of a certain color or shape.
• Talk about aisles, rows, uniforms, carts and signs and anything else that you can discover and learn about in the store.
• Talk about what you did before you came to the store and what you will do when you get home.
• Always make time to answer your child’s questions.
AT BEDTIME

• Have a routine and talk about what happens first, next and last. Something like: “First we put on our jammies, then we brush our teeth, then we read a book or sing a song and then you go to bed.”

• On evenings when you have time, talk with your child about the things you both did during the day. Ask your child to remember with you, take turns.

• On evenings when you have time, talk with your child about what the plans are for tomorrow. Ask your child what he/she is looking forward to.

• Close the day with a hug and a kiss. Children always need the security of knowing they are loved.

• Always make time to answer your child’s questions.
AT THE FARM

• On the way to the farm, talk about what you might or might not see there.
• Talk about the different types of animals you see.
• Talk about the sizes and colors of the animals. Find the biggest one and the smallest one.
• Talk about how the animals move.
• Talk about the sounds they make.
• Talk about what they eat.
• Sing “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”
• On the way home, talk about what you saw, heard and smelled at the farm.
• Always make time to answer your child’s questions.
DESIGN YOUR OWN
AT CHURCH, IN THE MORNING, IN THE CAR, VISITING FRIENDS,
HOLIDAYS, AT THE BEACH, AT THE PARK...