



The ability to communicate with others is a key component of being College and Career Ready. Students have to be able to communicate orally and in writing. There are many ways to support your children's communication skills at home.

To support oral communication:

- Talk to your children, and encourage them to talk to you. Consider the way you ask about their day when they get home from school:
 - Question: How was your day? Answer: Fine.
 - Question: What was one weird thing that happened today? Answer: Nothing weird happened, Mom!
 - Question: What did you learn today? Answer: Nothing.
 - Question: What was the most interesting thing you learned today? Answer: We learned about how frogs regulate their body temperature.
- Share meals. Families that share meals and have a meal-time conversation promote oral communication.
- Require your children to explain their homework answers. This will help with oral communication and with comprehension of the assignment.
- Make it a habit to discuss plans with your children. It may just be what you will have for dinner, the daily schedule, what is happening on Saturday, etc., but this helps children talk about expectations.

To support written communication:

- Have your children write the shopping list.
- Write notes to one another.
- Have your children apologize in writing when they have made a mistake or hurt someone else in the family.
- Have your children write thank you notes for gifts they receive.
- Have your children write critiques of movies or television shows you watch together.
- Have your children write poems to ordinary things (Ode to the Missing Purple Sock, Thoughts on Peanut Butter Sandwiches, My Pillow is My Friend).

The more your children read, write, listen, and speak in casual settings, the easier it will be for them to do those things in the formal school or workplace settings.

