

## Talking Matters ESOL starter packs

The Talking Matters ESOL starter packs have been co-designed with ELP staff, volunteers, CLAs and language experts as a language learning tool. What's special about these packs is that they are designed to encourage learners to talk more and talk differently with their children, through:

- Illustrations showing family members interacting with babies.
- Modeling interactive conversations with babies in different situations
- Roleplay around interactive illustrations

While you work with your learner on their ESOL skills, these may become opportunities to encourage more interaction with the little ones!

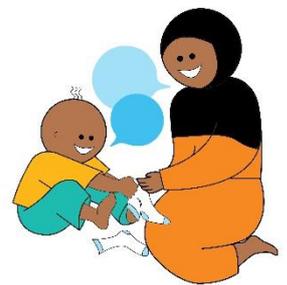
Scan this QR code with your phone to access an instructional video with ideas on how to use the packs

(you can download a QR code scanner app for free if you don't have one!)



## Why is early talk so important?

Rich language environments are key in setting children up for school and life success. This info sheet contains some key information tips on how to use the packs, from the language development point of view.



**The first 1000 days (0-3yrs) is a critical window for developing brain connections that relate with language development. Focusing on quality interactions makes the difference**

**Early talk and communication is related to:**

- Brain development
- Becoming a good reader
- Later academic success
- Forming positive relationships

**Home languages are especially powerful to enable loving relations and as a foundation for second language learning.**

### What tips can you use if families want to know more?

1. Talk about what you are doing and thinking
2. Touch, hug, hold
3. Comment on what they are looking at
4. Wait for their response
5. Name things that they are interested in
6. Take turns, don't do all the talking
7. Get down to their level, face to face
8. Repeat and add to what they say and do
9. Tune in and respond
10. Follow their lead, do what interests them
11. Imitate them, and add words
12. Encourage them, be positive
13. Wait for their response
14. Be silly, relax, have fun

**These tips are easy to understand, evidence-based advice to encourage interaction with babies and small children. They may resonate more with some families than others, based on their culture and experience. If you bring them into a conversation with your learners, ask questions about how they would use it, or if it resonates with their culture and worldview.**