



## Tips for Nurturing Your Child's Cognitive and Language Development: Ages 3-6



- Provide your child hands on experiences with books; read to your child, discuss pictures, animate stories with puppets and games, and model literacy
- Draw attention to similarities and differences between objects and experiences (at the grocery store, with laundry, on walks)
- Encourage discovery learning: allow children to explore their environment - follow their lead
- Help your child develop his/her imagination; encourage symbolic play, provide play opportunities with different types of toys ( blocks, puzzles, dolls, stacking toys, water play, sandbox, household items)
- Help your child solve problems: model and verbalize the process
- Provide language exposure through day to day interactions; listen, ask questions, rephrase, and encourage /model elaboration
- Build vocabulary by talking about shapes, colors, patterns & sequence
- Practice nursery rhymes, play word games ,and draw attention to sounds
- Provide opportunities for your child to play with materials that promote the identification of letters and sounds (magnetic letters, puzzles, books & charts)

(Santrock, 2008; Thibault, J.P., & MdKee, J.S. 1982)