



Families who talk together, learn together.

Did you know . . .

- As brains continue to develop, school-age children will have a growing need for independence in their decision-making and thinking process. They bring previous experiences and learning to their thinking about new situations and challenges.
- Developmentally, school-age children are engaging in more complicated conversations, and as they grow, many children are less communicative with their parents than with their friends.
- Time spent reading can have a long-term positive impact on vocabulary development.
- Talking with your child about the importance of education for a lifetime of success can have a powerful impact on school achievement.



What you can do when talking* with your child . . .

- Talk with your child about learning. Engage in conversation about what they know, what they want to know, and what interests them.
- When having a conversation about difficult topics with your child, use “what if” or “what would you do when” scenarios to encourage discussion about making choices.
- Encouragement and conversation can be more effective than simple praise or disapproval.
- Encourage your child to read. Make time to discuss what your child is reading.
- Put your cell phone down while listening to and talking with your child. Model respectful behavior. Expect respectful behavior.



For more information about the Family Talk campaign, please visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families or call 617-629-5476.

*For families with hearing impairments, sign language is talk.

