

Everyday Moments

for Helping Young
Children Learn



Everyday Language &
Learning Opportunities



Introduction to ELLO

ELLO is short for Everyday Language & Learning Opportunities. And as an organization, ELLO has the overarching goal of increasing the number of quality, language-rich interactions between caregivers and young children.

We seek to connect with home routines and community spaces that are routinely accessed by families, such as grocery stores, laundry mats, public transit, libraries, and outdoor spaces.

Our resources encourage caregivers to talk *with* their children and are thematically tailored to fit into familiar routines and community settings. This is intentional and provides opportunities for conversations throughout everyday routines that can empower all caregivers to realize how much they have the ability to benefit their child's life through something completely free, talking!





ELLO resources have been created for use with families and their very young children—those who are just beginning to repeat first words through those enrolled in kindergarten.

These materials can be used by families, early learning professionals, social workers, faith leaders, health care professionals, and local businesses.

Families can use the materials as a fun way to inspire conversation and build vocabulary skills. Early learning professionals can use the materials in the classroom and with their school families to introduce the importance of conversation with young children. Community members and local businesses can use ELLO materials to promote language-rich, positive experiences throughout their settings that are frequented by young children and families.

Everyone has a role to play in supporting small yet meaningful moments of interaction that can have a big impact on a child's life. When young children and families thrive, community thrives.



Resources

CONVERSATION CARDS

Available in English, Marshallese, Russian, and Spanish

Grocery stores, mealtimes, laundry duties, and your neighborhood are filled with everyday language and learning opportunities! Download our conversation cards as a starting point for intentional, language-rich interactions around your home and in community spaces. Download, print, and assemble one of each card set to take with you on the go!

CONVERSATION POSTERS

Available in English, Marshallese, Russian, and Spanish

Grocery stores, mealtimes, laundry duties, and your neighborhood are filled with everyday language and learning opportunities! Download, print, and display the 18 x 24 inch poster for your own use.

DIAPER TIME IS TALKING TIME POSTER

This ELLO changing table poster encourages positive, language-rich interactions between caregivers and very young children during diaper time.

STORY CARDS

Available in English, Salish

ELLO story cards encourage conversation in fun and creative ways during wait time and downtime, such as when riding in a car, waiting for a meal, or falling asleep. Download our template that includes the names of our ELLO animal friends in Salish.

ELLO LEARNING TRAIL

The ELLO Learning Trail encourages language-rich, science-themed conversation as you explore throughout outdoor spaces. Download our visuals for outdoor displays in your own community.

COMMUNITY DISPLAYS

Download any of our example community displays for public transit or grocery store settings. Use these as examples for a local community campaign.





Tips for Using Resources

ELLO materials are designed as a starting point for continued conversations around the home and in community spaces.

Materials suggest simple vocabulary words to use with infants and toddlers. Vocabulary words can be used while labeling or talking about what's around. Additional suggestions include open-ended questions to promote more advanced conversation with older preschool and kindergarten children.

- 1. QUESTION** Start with an open-ended (how, why, what) question that needs more than a one-word answer. This helps to get children talking.
- 2. REPEAT** Repeat what the child has said to reinforce their response.
- 3. STRETCH** Build on the child's response with a longer sentence to build vocabulary.
- 4. TALK+** Continue to talk with the child by going back and starting with another question. You can continue the process of a QUESTION, REPEAT, and STRETCH, creating a conversation.
- 5. HAVE FUN** Conversations are a great way to connect and build vocabulary.

Seeking Support

Over a million new neural connections are formed every second in the first few years of life.

Caregivers and communities can capitalize on this period of rapid brain development to help young children build the critical foundation they will need later in life. During these early years, it's not the number of costly toys or alphabet flashcards a child has that is of utmost importance, but rather it is something that is completely free—talking!

Hearing language strengthens brain connections, and language is central to all aspects of a child's development, including attachment, early literacy, early math, and social-emotional development.

ELLO materials are available for free on our open-access website. We enthusiastically encourage community stakeholders to seek funds for customization, professional printing, and distribution of ELLO resources and displays as a means to promote positive outcomes for young children and families in their community.

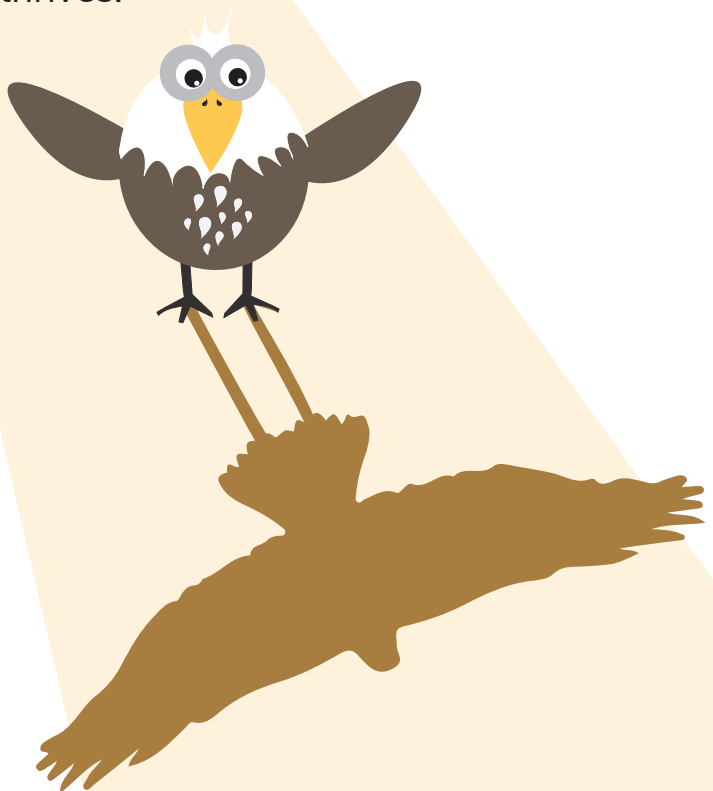


Children whose caregivers talk *with* them are more likely to use language with confidence and to grow larger vocabularies at younger ages.

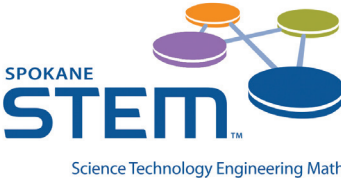
Learning language should be fun!

We can promote and reinforce language-rich opportunities for children and families through positive engagement in familiar family routines and community settings.

These everyday language and learning opportunities are small yet meaningful moments of interaction that have a big impact on a child's life. When young children and families thrive, community thrives.



This project is made possible by funding and support from Washington STEM network and collaborative partners.





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