

As a home visitor, early intervention provider, or a coach whose role is supporting caregivers in promoting child language and communication development, it may feel challenging to know where to start in introducing PC TALK. The first thing to remember is that PC TALK was designed to be *flexible*, so that as a coach or home visitor, you have flexibility in how you introduce PC TALK and the strategies. The overall aim of PC TALK is to *build caregiver capacity to embed language learning opportunities into daily activities* of young children at home and in child care settings. We provide some general guidelines here to help you use the *Promoting Communication Tools for Advancing Language in Kids* and support caregivers in promoting child communication growth and development.

For each resource listed below, we provide the page number in the PC TALK Strategy Manual, or a link to the resource on the PC TALK web site.



### INTRODUCE PC TALK

Use the talking points provided here to start the conversation:

#### What is PC TALK?

- Naturalistic approach to supporting young children's language and communication development.
- Strategies that caregivers can use in day-to-day interactions with children to support language and communication development.
- Tools that caregivers can use to learn about and plan how to use the strategies in daily routines.
- Find more information to help describe PC TALK [here](#): pg. 3-4

#### Describe why providing opportunities for language and communication is important?

- Providing multiple opportunities for children to hear and practice communication helps children to be more likely to communicate themselves.
- Early experiences with language builds new brain connections, laying the foundation for later development, and success in school and life.
- Find more information on why language-learning opportunities are important [here](#): pgs. 5-7

#### Why are daily routines so important to providing language opportunities?

- Daily routines are the activities we do every day with young children.
- Using the PC TALK strategies consistently through naturally-occurring daily routines provides children with multiple opportunities to experience and practice communication.
- Find more information on routines [here](#): pg. 7



## Share the PC TALK strategies

PC TALK was designed to be *individualized* to the unique needs of careproviders and children at home and in child care centers. To individualize PC TALK, consider:

- What are the caregivers preferences and goals?
- How are children currently communicating?
- Note that each strategy handout provides examples for children who use gestures and sounds, and for children who use words.
- Share the [PC TALK Tools](#): Poster, Video, Self-Check, Strategy Handouts, Activity Cards.

### There are many ways to begin

There are many ways to share the PC TALK strategies. Some caregivers prefer to start off small, with only one strategy or one routine, while others might want to try multiple strategies or focus on multiple routines. However you introduce the strategies, try to follow caregivers’ lead in deciding where to start:

- Introduce 1 strategy, in 1 daily routine
- Introduce 2-3 strategies in 1 daily routine
- Introduce 1 strategy across a few different routines
- Start by talking about the physical or social environment – focus on play areas, access to toys and materials, making books available, or on establishing simple routines in the day.
- Start small to build caregivers’ success and confidence!
- Use the Intervention Delivery Checklist to keep track of the strategies and routines addressed with each caregiver.

### Share the strategies and the PC TALK Tools

<p><b>What <a href="#">PC TALK Strategy</a> could we start with?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Following Child’s Lead</a> (pgs. 26-29)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Comment and Label</a> (pgs. 30-33)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Imitate and Expand</a> (pgs. 34-37)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Asking Open-Ended Questions</a> (pgs. 38-41)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Giving Praise &amp; Positive Attention</a> (pgs. 42-45)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Providing Choices</a> (pgs. 46-49)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Fill in the Blank</a> (pgs. 50-53)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Can the physical <a href="#">environment</a> help promote caregiver-child interactions?</b> (pgs. 19-25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arranging the physical environment (pg. 20)</li> <li>• Social environment: listening and responding, engagement in interactions (pg. 21)</li> <li>• Predictable schedules, routines, and transitions (pg. 22)</li> <li>• Book area (pg. 24)</li> </ul>	<p><b>What <a href="#">daily routines</a> could we begin with?</b> (pg. 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play time</li> <li>• Book activities</li> <li>• Personal care: bath, dressing, diapering</li> <li>• Meals and snacks, bottle time</li> <li>• Outings or outdoor play</li> <li>• Structured activities at school: art, music time</li> </ul>
<p><b>Share the <a href="#">PC TALK Tools</a> (see pgs. 9-12 of the manual, or access on the web site):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Poster</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Videos</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Strategy Handouts</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Activity Cards</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Caregiver Self-Check</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Text Messaging</a></li> </ul>		



## Sustaining the use of PC TALK Strategies

Children’s language grows over time, especially when caregivers are using language promoting strategies. Support caregivers in using the PC TALK strategies using the approaches described here.

### **Describe the PC TALK strategies and how they promote**

**communication:** Name and describe the strategies for caregivers and briefly explain how each strategy increases opportunities for language interactions.

**Focus on Routines:** Identify ways that a PC TALK strategy can be used in a daily routine. Use the Activity Cards, which are organized by daily routines, to provide a few examples of each strategy within a specific routine.

**Demonstrate a PC TALK strategy:** Model or demonstrate how to use a PC TALK strategy with a child or children. Point out how the strategy increased an opportunity for the child to experience and practice communication.

**Individualized PC TALK strategies to family/child/classroom needs:** Work together to plan how caregivers can tailor strategy use to individual child or family needs. Topics for discussion might include how to adjust strategy use and PC TALK tool use to fit best with the child’s developmental stage and/or needs. Consider whether the child is using words or gestures or multi-word utterances, or if the child has language delays or disabilities, or is a dual-language learner.

**Use the Self-Check to plan for strategy use:** Use the PC TALK Self-Check to plan for using the strategies in daily routines. Together, select strategies and routines to practice in the coming week.

**Encourage caregiver reflection on PC TALK strategy use:** Encourage caregivers to reflect on their use of specific PC TALK strategies. Use the Self-Check to prompt reflection on how the strategy worked to promote child communication, or how the caregiver used the strategy in new or different ways.

**Share and discuss the PC-Obs graph report:** Share the PC-Obs Graph Report with the caregiver. Describe what the graph shows and use the graph to encourage caregiver efforts (e.g., “You are really using a lot of Commenting and Labeling during meal times, and look how much more your child is communicating!”). The graph may also be referenced when planning strategy use in the coming week.

**Provide positive and supportive feedback:** Provide positive and supportive feedback on the use of the PC TALK strategies. This might include describing instances of strategy use, or encouraging the caregiver to continue using the strategies. You might also describe the effect of caregiver’s strategy use on child communication.

**Address challenges:** An important part of supporting caregiver strategy use is helping them overcome challenges and barriers. The coach can begin this conversation by asking (e.g., “Have there been challenges in using the Fill in the Blank?”), observing interactions, or providing opportunities for caregivers to share their experience.

**Develop a plan together:** Work together to identify a routine in which the caregiver might use the strategies. The coach might say “Now that we’ve talked about Commenting and Labeling, let’s think

Read “**Supporting Caregivers in Using PC TALK**” in the [PC TALK Manual](#). (pgs. 14-17) for more on how you can share the strategies.

about a routine you can start to use it in. This Activity Card gives you some ideas about how to use Commenting and Labeling during Play.” Reference the Self-Check form to help the caregiver plan for strategy use, and to prompt caregivers to reflect on strategy use during daily routines.

**For center-based care only: Share PC TALK strategies with families:** Teaching teams and coaches can work together to identify ways to share the PC TALK strategies or tools with other important people in the child’s life at home, such as parents or grandparents. The Activity Cards, Poster, Strategy Videos, and Strategy Handouts can be shared with caregivers.

***My Reflections***

*Other ways to share the PC TALK strategies with caregivers*

*What has worked well?*

*What would I like to try?*