Children need to have many experiences and interactions to develop background knowledge and language skills.
Language provides framework for

- Lifelong communication skills
- Reading and writing skills
What are Language Skills?

- Using words to convey a meaningful message
- Using a sequence of sounds [ b - i - g ]
- Understanding and saying meaningful words; vocabulary
- Using words in the correct order: “The house is big,” not “The is big house.”
- Using words in the appropriate social context; children should not say to parents or teachers, “No, duh!”
Developmental Stages of Language Skills

<table>
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<th>Age</th>
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It’s **important** to know...

- Children develop at different rates
- Social, economic, and cultural background affect language skill development
- Most oral language skills develop by age 5
Socio-economic Level and Language Development

Number of words heard per hour

- Welfare
- Working Class
- Prof.

Adapted from Hart, B. and Risley, T. (1999)
It’s **important** to know...

- Children develop at different rates
- Social, economic, and cultural background affect language skill development
- Most oral language skills develop by age 5
1. Children need to have many experiences and interactions to develop background knowledge and language skills.

2. Children need frequent opportunities to talk about their experiences and ideas using words, phrases, and sentences.

3. Children need to learn and use new vocabulary words continuously.
Outcomes

- **Adults** will support children’s efforts to communicate by providing them frequent opportunities to talk.

- **Adults** will engage children in conversation by:
  - Commenting
  - Asking questions
  - Responding to children’s comments or questions
Iowa Early Learning Standard

Children understand and use communication and language for a variety of purposes.

Benchmarks

- Children will initiate, listen, and respond appropriately in conversations with peers and adults.
- Children will ask and answer a variety of question types.
- Children will speak in sentences of increasing length and complexity.
Children need many experiences and interactions to develop background knowledge and language skills.
Strategy

Provide a variety of meaningful experiences using daily routines or planned events
Engagement Leads to Meaningful Experiences

Real apples

Plastic apples

Picture of apple

The *word* ‘apple’
Background knowledge is useful in language development in two ways:

- Children develop a basic understanding of their world.
- These experiences encourage communication about their world.
Types of Experiences

- Daily routine events
- Planned events
  - In home or early childhood care and education setting
  - Outside home or early childhood care and education setting
Use many daily opportunities to create meaningful experiences that help children develop background knowledge and language skills.