HELP YOUR PRESCHOOLER DEVELOP LANGUAGE

3 YEARS:
- Let your child join the conversation. Give him extra time to share ideas.
- Model correct sounds and grammar (e.g. child says "he wunned"; you say "he ran").
- Answer your child's questions and listen as she talks to you.
- Add new words and ideas to what your child tells you.
- Explain how things work. Describe objects.
- Talk about solutions to a problem.
- Let your child play with other children.
- Play together often (e.g. pretend play, play with toys, etc.).
- Read to your child everyday.

4 YEARS:
- Talk about how things are the same or different.
- Clearly repeat words and sentences your child has difficulty saying.
- Talk about the order of events - describe what happens "first, next and last".
- Ask questions like "What will happen next?" to help your child think and use more complex language.
- Help your child talk about his feelings and ideas.
- Encourage her to tell stories using books, pictures or puppets.
- Point out words in books. Run your finger under words while you read to your child.
- Read books with rhyming words - "mouse/house", and point out the sounds at the start of words (e.g. "Mouse starts with the 'mmm' sound. It's the letter M".).

5 YEARS:
- Use new or complex words (e.g. "before/after", "rough/smooth"). Explain what they mean and use them often in other situations.
- Talk about the quantity of objects (e.g. "a lot/a little", "more/less", "one/many").
- When reading to your child, talk about the beginning, middle and end of the story. Ask her "What do you think will happen next?".
- Let your child make up stories to tell you or to act out for you.
- Talk about your day. Ask him to tell you about his day.
- Let your child help plan events. Talk about what you need to do before a birthday party or how to get ready to go to the zoo. Ask her "why" and "how" questions.
- Ask him to help (e.g. bake cookies, set the table, sort laundry). During these activities, give him instructions and see if he can follow or repeat them back to you.

First Words
Premiers Mots