



**The National Center on
Quality Teaching and Learning**

Tips for Teachers
Engaging Children in Conversations



Teachers play a critical role in developing language-rich classroom environments. Here are a few practical ways in which teachers can support and engage children in conversations.

Set the stage:

- 1) Get down on the child's level
- 2) Listen to what the child says
- 3) Match the tone of the conversation to the child's affect
- 4) Take turns in talking



Start the conversation:

- 1) Talk about what the child is doing or what the child is interested in
- 2) Ask questions that relate to the child's experiences or interests
- 3) Add to what the child says and model new language
- 4) Give the child enough time to respond



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For more Information

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