



Tips for Pediatricians

- ❖ **Encourage parents to talk, read, and sing** to children every day to build early language skills.
- ❖ **Incorporate evidence-based literacy promotion into your practice.** [Reach Out and Read](#) gives young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together.
- ❖ Encourage parents to look for **high-quality child care and preschool options** where children can develop consistent, positive relationships and build language and early literacy skills. Visit www.brightstars.org to find high-quality child care and preschool options.
- ❖ Make sure all children in your practice receive **regular developmental screenings** during well-child visits at ages 9, 18, 24, and 30 months and through local school districts at ages 3, 4, and 5. Follow up on any referrals for further evaluation or services. Approximately 15% of children experience developmental delays. [Early Intervention](#) and [Preschool Special Education](#) can help children catch up so they are not behind when they start school.
- ❖ Talk to parents about the **importance of regular school attendance** and the connection between regular school attendance and school success.
- ❖ Provide parents with information on how to **reduce summer learning loss**. Encourage families to bring children to **libraries, museums, zoos, parks, farms, and other community sites** where children can engage in hands-on learning. Libraries often have passes families may borrow to gain free or low-cost admission to these community sites.
- ❖ Provide information to families about **summer food programs** that provide healthy food for children all summer long
- ❖ **Advocate for increased, dedicated state and local funding** to support high-quality early learning, afterschool, and summer learning programs in your state and community.

