

# Conversational Reading

Children are active in conversational reading

It is like a conversation, asking the child to do something and not always following the words in a book.

**Lets get started** >

**Produced by**  
Joseph Sparling  
Craig T. Ramey  
Collette Tayler

**Mums, dads, grandparents,  
and older siblings can do  
conversational reading.**



**Get the whole family involved!**

**Read anywhere and anytime.**



**...indoors, outdoors, in bed, on the bus, at the doctor's.**

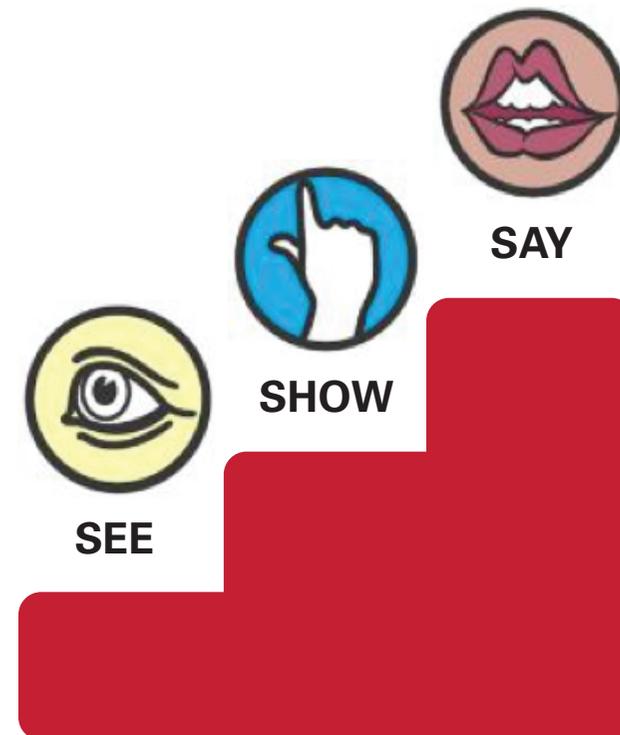
## Conversational reading goes back-and-forth



The child does not always have to talk in the "conversation".  
He can take part by looking and by pointing.

## Use the 3S strategy.

Ask your child to respond on 3 levels.



Think of the levels as stair steps.

**STEP 1**



**SEE**

**ACTIVITY 1**

**Watch your baby's eyes.  
Does she look where you point?**



## ACTIVITY 2

**Name anything your child sees or touches in the book. Say the key word first.**

Banana. You're looking at the yellow banana.



## ACTIVITY 3

**Then, point to and name pictures or words your child is *not* looking at.**



**Check to see if his eyes follow.**

## ACTIVITY 4

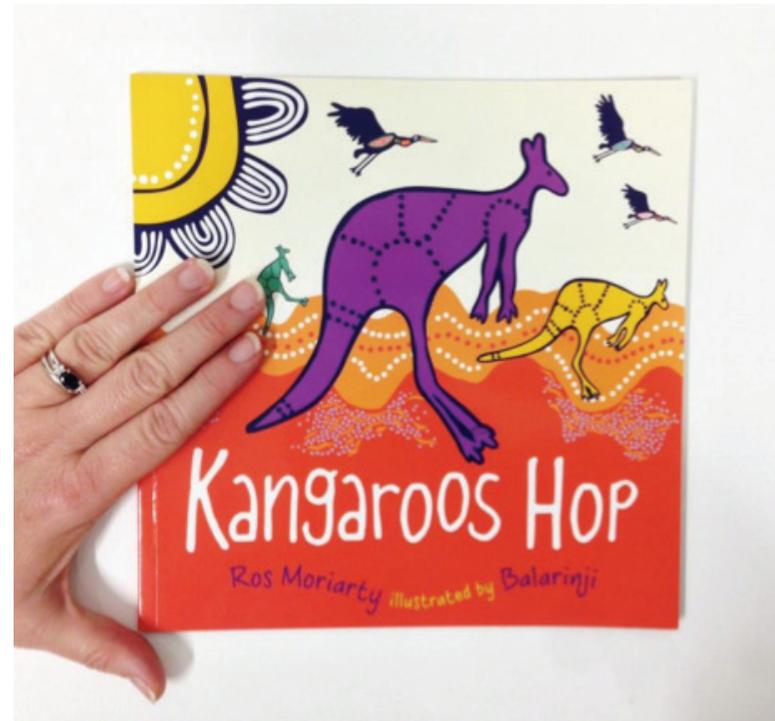
**Point to lots of pictures.  
Say interesting things about them.**



**Sometimes make “mistakes”  
and let the child correct you.**

## ACTIVITY 5

**Sometimes point to parts of  
the book and name them.**



**See, this is the  
front of the book.**

**See, these are  
the pages.**

## ACTIVITY 6

Point to the first word on a page and tell him that's where the reading starts.



STEP 2



SHOW

## ACTIVITY 7

**Let your child's eyes, hands, and actions tell if he understands what you are saying**



## ACTIVITY 8

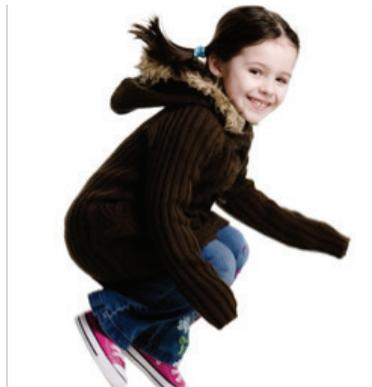
**Ask your child to "show" in interesting ways.**



## ACTIVITY 9

Sometimes invite her to “act out” the answer to a question about the book.

How does the kangaroo move?



How do people clap their hands?



## ACTIVITY 10

Let your child to show you parts of the book.

Show me a picture.



Now... show me some words.

## ACTIVITY 11

**Invite your child to “say”  
– to answer in words.**

**STEP 3**

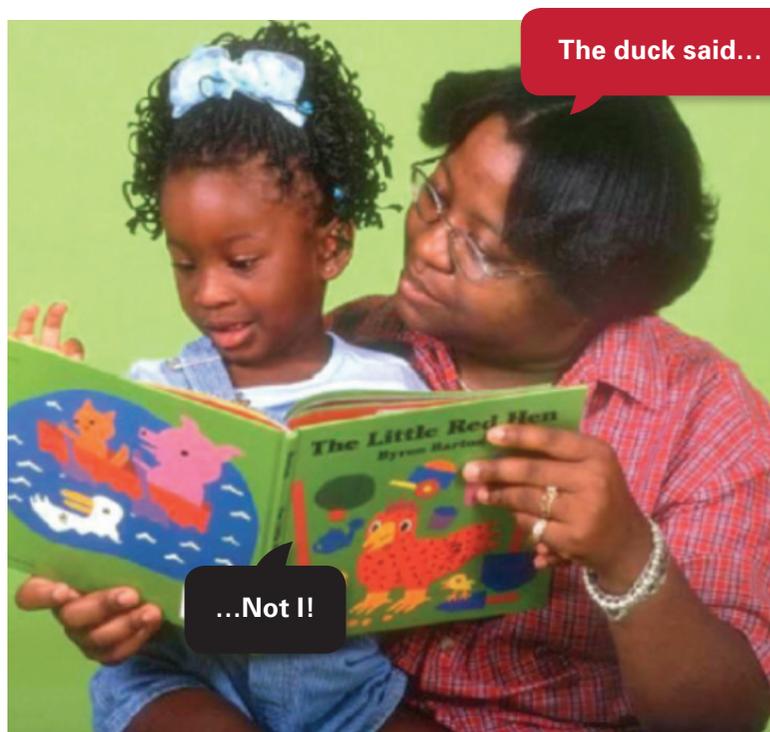


**SAY**



## ACTIVITY 12

**Leave a word or two  
out of a sentence.  
Let your child supply them.**



## ACTIVITY 13

**You don't always have to  
use children's books. Sometimes  
use magazines.**



**Talk about the pictures together.**

## ACTIVITY 14

Invite your child to “say”  
– to answer in words.



## Ask yourself: Am I doing these things?

---

Every day I read with my child

---

I let my child do something (look, point, talk) when we read

---

I use the 3S strategy: see, show, say

---

To inquire about additional copies of the publication, contact: [3a-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:3a-info@unimelb.edu.au)

## Credits

- Page 1 Photo from The Creative Curriculum® LearningGames® (12-24 months), by J. Sparling, I. Lewis & D. Dodge, 2008, Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, LLC. Copyright 2008 by Teaching Strategies, LLC. Reprinted with permission.
- Activity 7 Photo courtesy of the King Hussein Foundation and the Iman Early Learning Institute
- Activity 11 Photo courtesy of the King Hussein Foundation and the Iman Early Learning Institute
- Activity 13 Photo from The Creative Curriculum® LearningGames® (36-48 months), by J. Sparling, I. Lewis & D. Dodge, 2008, Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, LLC. Copyright 2008 by Teaching Strategies, LLC. Reprinted with permission.