

Poem Whisper

Primary Objectives

11a. Attends and engages

Why It's Important

Whispering to your child encourages her to listen attentively to the sound of your voice. Varying what you whisper (such as your child's name, directions, a silly song, or an interesting poem) keeps this strategy engaging.

Materials

None

What You Do

1. Notice if your child pays attention to you as you whisper to her.
2. Start saying the words to a poem in a regular speaking voice, and then slowly soften your voice to a whisper. To find engaging material, explore collections of poems for children such as *Someone I Like: Poems About People* by Judith Nicholls; *Poems for the Very Young*, selected by Michael Rosen; and *A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein.
3. When your child quiets down and focuses on your words, repeat the poem. Then give whatever directions you need to or acknowledge her ability to focus on your words. *You are sitting so quietly. I can tell you are ready to listen to a story.*