



# Making a Difference Through Early Interactions

Language development is a continuous process that begins at birth and evolves over time.

Children develop language skills when they are engaged in responsive relationships where adults encourage them to share their ideas, thoughts, feelings, and observations. Effective classroom interactions between educators and infants and toddlers promote social-emotional, cognitive, and language development.

## The Virginia Early Learning and Development Standards Birth-Five Learning Guidelines (ELDS)

This reference helps educators understand what **most** children are able to **know** and **to do**, across different areas of development, by a given age.

In ELDS Area 3 Communication, Language, and Literacy Development.

In Sub Area Communication there are three Focus Areas with developmental indicators for birth to 36 months.

**These areas are:**

- CLLD1.1 Understanding verbal and nonverbal cues
- CLLD1.2 Using vocabulary and nonverbal cues to communicate
- CLLD1.3 Learning and engaging in conversational interactions

## Strategies to Support

Language Learning and communication in Infants and toddlers

Be available to provide comfort and respond to children's individual needs by listening and watching.

**CLASS® Dimension:**  
Teacher Sensitivity

Use self talk with infants, extend toddlers attempts at language, use a variety of words.

**CLASS® Dimensions:**  
Language Modeling  
Early Language Support

Have frequent conversational interactions with children.

Conversational interactions are back-and-forth adult-child 'turns.'

**ELDS CLLD1.3 and LENA®**

## Resources Related to Making a Difference Through Early Interactions

- Virginia Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS): Birth-Five Learning Guidelines, <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/curriculum/va-elds-birth-5.pdf>
- CLASS®, Teachstone Training, LLC 2014 <https://teachstone.com/class/>
- Inside Early Talk Report, LENA®, 2020 [www.LENA.org](http://www.LENA.org)
- WHY CLASS? Exploring the Promise of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS) Teachstone Training, LLC 2018 [https://info.teachstone.com/hubfs/WhyClass\\_Ebook%20\(1\).pdf](https://info.teachstone.com/hubfs/WhyClass_Ebook%20(1).pdf)

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