

# 4 Baby Steps to help close the Word Gap

and give children a learning chance!



**1. Make eye contact.**



**2. Talk directly to them.**



**3. Read books to them.**



**4. Sing songs to them.**

**The Word Gap.** Evidence shows that, during the first few years of life, children in poverty hear 30 million fewer words than children in the middle class. This “word gap” has a negative impact on language acquisition and brain development. You can help make a difference when you take time to engage, talk, read and sing to a child.

- 1.** Direct eye contact gets their attention and makes them feel loved.
- 2.** Tell a child what is happening using at least 5 words per sentence.

Our goal is to raise awareness of the “word gap” and to teach everyone how to close this gap.  
*Give children a learning chance!*

Watch our videos and learn more at:

[ccwtn.org/wordgap](http://ccwtn.org/wordgap)

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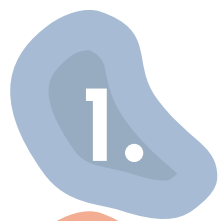
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# 4 Whys of Active Listening

help your children...



1. **Develop communication skills.**



2. **Become good listeners.**



3. **Use appropriate nonverbal skills.**



4. **Learn how to respond correctly.**

**Millions of Words...** By a child's 4th birthday... that's the gap between a child in a low income and a middle-class household. You can close the gap by looking your child in the eyes, talking, singing and reading. But did you know that ACTIVE LISTENING techniques are some of the most important tools on a parent's tool belt? As your child grows up, these

active listening tools will help them develop proper language skills. Day by day...we can begin to close the WORD GAP ... and prepare all our children for school and life.

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