



# Spotlighting

## *Facilitating Children’s Language & Pre-School Readiness Skills: Parents as “Academic and Persistence Coaches”*



Using academic and persistence coaching to narrate children’s behavior and activities is a powerful way to strengthen children’s language and school readiness skills. The following is a list of actions, behaviors and objects that can be commented upon when playing with your child. Use this checklist to practice these coaching methods.

<b>Objects, Actions</b>	<b>Examples</b>
_____ colors _____ number counting _____ shapes _____ names of objects _____ sizes (long, short, tall, smaller than, bigger than, etc.,) _____ positions (up, down, beside, next to, on top, behind, etc.,)	“You have the red car and the yellow truck.”  “There are one, two, three dinosaurs in a row.”  “Now the square Lego is stuck to the round Lego.”  “That train is longer than the track.”  “You are putting the tiny bolt in the right circle.”  “The blue block is next to the yellow square, and the purple triangle is on top of the long red rectangle.”
<b>Persistence</b>	
_____ working hard _____ concentrating, focusing _____ stay calm, patience _____ trying again _____ problem solving _____ thinking skills _____ reading	“You are working so hard on that puzzle with your friend and thinking about where that piece will go.”  “You are so patient and just keep trying all different ways to make that piece fit together.”  “You are staying calm and trying again.”  “You are thinking hard about how to solve the problem and coming up with a great solution to make a ship.”
<b>Behaviors</b>	
_____ following parent’s directions _____ listening _____ independence _____ exploring _____ waiting	“You followed directions exactly like I asked you. You really listened.”  “You have put your shoes on all by yourself.”  “You asked for a turn and now you are waiting for a turn on the computer. You show you are ready for school.”