

## Parent Academy Module 4: Oral Language

### Our Weather Wrap Up (2-5 Years)

**Vroom Tip:** When you come from outside, have a chat with your child about the weather. Were you hot or cold? Make sure you use simple sentences, but add bigger words, too.

**Brainy Background™:** Talking to your child about their world helps to build their brain. Remember to ask questions: "Did your coat keep you warm?" and build on they say: "the wind made me shiver just like you!"

### Snack Sense (2-4 years)

**Vroom Tip:** Take turns with your child coming up with words that describe what they're eating. If they have a carrot ask, "What does it look like?" They might say, "orange," and you might say, "pointy." Keep the conversation going with questions like, "What does it feel, smell, and taste like?" or "What does it sound like when you eat it?"

**Brainy Background™:** It helps to make a "Calm Down Kit" before upset feelings happen. You're helping your child plan how to handle stress so they can take action in a difficult moment. This gives them more control. It also builds skills important to tackling challenges.

### Twenty Questions (2.5 – 5 Years)

**Vroom Tip:** When you're reading or telling a story to your child at bedtime, ask them questions about the story. Pause the story and ask: "What do you think will happen next? How do you think the character feels? What would you do if that happened to you?"

**Brainy Background™:** Asking questions (what, where, when, who, why) helps your child learn to focus and pay attention to the details of the story and use critical thinking skills. These questions also build their memory.

### Grab Some Words (2 – 4 Years)

**Vroom Tip:** Shopping? Give your child a copy of your shopping list or a few of the store's coupons, talking back and forth about what they're looking at. Point to a word or picture on your list or on a coupon and say, "Look, we need bananas. Let's go find some together!"

**Brainy Background™:** You're helping your child learn to develop self-control when you give them the opportunity to use words and pictures as a way to focus. When you involve them in tasks like shopping, you also give them a sense of responsibility, something they will need in school and in life.

[Learn more at vroom.org](https://vroom.org)

## Parent Academy Module 4: Oral Language

### Handy Helpers (2 – 5 Years)

**Vroom Tip:** In the morning, take turns being "Handy Helpers." Help each other find a pair of socks, pour milk, or zip up a jacket. Ask your child, "Will you please help me \_\_\_?" Then invite them to ask you for help. It's a nice way to start the day!

**Brainy Background™:** Taking turns helping one another gives your child practice communicating and helps them explore the idea that people have different wants and needs.

### Mini Chef (3 – 5 Years)

**Vroom Tip:** Have your child help with safe and simple tasks while you are cooking. Mixing or adding an ingredient can be good places to start. As you work, ask them what they think will happen when they stir things together or add something new. Listen to their ideas, then talk together about what you see happening.

**Brainy Background™:** This is real-life science. Guessing about what might happen promotes your child's curiosity. This helps them adopt a lifelong love of learning!

### Daily Favorite (2.5 – 5 Years)

**Vroom Tip:** In the evening, ask your child what their favorite part of the day was. Make sure you follow up with questions. "Why did you like that? Was it more fun than the last time you did that? Why?" You can make this a regular part of your day!

**Brainy Background™:** Asking your child questions that require more than a simple yes or no help build language, communication, and reasoning skills. Repeat what they say back to them in more complex sentences. Don't be afraid to use words they don't know!

### Thankful Tidbits (3 – 5 Years)

**Vroom Tip:** At bedtime, take turns with your child listing things you're thankful for. Here's an easy one to start with, "I'm thankful for you!" Then, help them think of something they're thankful to have in their life. See how many times you can go back and forth.

**Brainy Background™:** Every back-and-forth conversation builds your child's brain. After they say something, repeat it back in complete sentences. And did you know that paying attention to what's positive in your life has been shown to lead to more happiness and satisfaction? For both of you!

[Learn more at vroom.org](https://www.vroom.org)