



## Dear families and friends,

Thank you so much for participating in the Learning to Talk project! We are interested in finding out more about how children learn to talk so we can figure out better ways of helping children who are having difficulty learning to talk. We take learning to talk for granted, just

like learning to walk. But learning to talk is a lot more complicated than learning to walk! And, learning to talk is important because it's the basis for learning to read.

If you are the parent of a young child, please continue reading to learn about how your child can participate in our study! If you are

a fellow researcher or just are interested in the science side of our study, please explore our website, or more information:

[learningtotalk.org](http://learningtotalk.org)

### Learning to Talk Lab

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#### Special points of interest:

- *Our Purpose*
- *Participate in our Study!*
- *Learn more about your child's development!*

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## Research that is relevant to you and your child!

What is the most important thing that parents can do to improve their children's language? The answer is easy — talk to them! Researchers have found that if parents talk more to their children, then

their children learn more words.

How can parents start talking more to their children? Researchers have found that a *language pedometer* can increase how much parents

talk to children. Just like a regular pedometer increases how much you walk, a language pedometer increases how much you talk to your children!



Reading together is great for developing readers!

## Learning to Talk Lab

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### Our Investigators



Courtney Heurth is from Sauk Prairie, Wisconsin. She graduated from the UMN in Spring 2013 with a BA in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences and Spanish, and is now a first year graduate student working toward a masters degree in Speech Language Pathology. Right now she is not sure what setting she'd like to work in professionally. She has been with the Learning To Talk project since September 2012, and particularly enjoys working with the children, and with other members of the Learning to Talk project.

## Breaking news! Results from the Learning to Talk Lab.

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Did you know that how many words your child knows is related to how quickly he or she learns new words? Children who know more words also learn new words more quickly. We have learned one of the reasons why this is the case. Did your child participate in the eye-tracking study in our lab where he/she looked at a familiar object (such as *dog*) and an unfamiliar object (such as *wombat*)? Franzo Law II (a post-doctoral researcher in the Learning To Talk Lab at University of Wisconsin-Madison) has found that children with larger vocabularies were quicker to look at the unfamiliar object when they heard a word that they didn't know (a nonsense word). This helps them learn new words more quickly. This is just one more reason why vocabulary is important and why it's important to talk to your child as much as you can.

## We Want You! Participate in the Twin Cities!

Interested in helping us improve methods for teaching young children? Join our research project! Our study looks at how young children learn sounds and words! Both you and your child can be involved!

Who can participate?

- Children who are 2-3 years old
- Children who are native English speakers
- Children who have normal hearing and are typically developing!
- Children with cochlear implants

Families are paid for their participation and your child will receive a small toy and a book.

Transportation (cab) will be provided if you would like it.  
How does the study work?

Sessions take place at the University of Minnesota's Shelvin Hall, 164 Pillsbury Drive, Minneapolis, MN.

Your child will participate in 1-6 sessions and the sessions last about 1-2 hours.

If you would like to learn more about this study, please email us

at [learningtotalk@umn.edu](mailto:learningtotalk@umn.edu), or call Maria Swora at 612-624-6893 or visit our website, [www.learningtotalk.org](http://www.learningtotalk.org) and enter your information on our **participate** page! We look forward to working with you!

Please pass this information on to family and friends who might be interested in this study. Thanks!