GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Family Literacy Resources



Simple routines to support your child as a reader, thinker, and communicator!



Words **Ideas** **Conversations**

Speaking and Listening Protocol

Helping Students Share, Explain, and Build on Ideas

What is the Speaking and Listening Protocol?

The Speaking and Listening Protocol, often called **Turn and Talk**, is a short, structured conversation routine that gives all students a chance to think, share, and build on ideas with a partner or small group.

Why Do We Use It?

- Helps students think more deeply about what they are learning.
- Builds confidence in speaking and sharing ideas.
- Teaches students to listen to and respect different perspectives.
- Strengthens reading, vocabulary, and comprehension.

What Does It Look Like?



How Does It Grow from K-5?

- **4-5** Students use evidence, make connections, and respond to different perspectives.
- **2-3** Students build on ideas, ask and answer questions, and give reasons.
- **K-1** Students learn to take turns, share an idea, and listen with care.

The Big Idea

Speaking and listening helps students become stronger **readers**, **writers**, **thinkers**, and **communicators**. These short, purposeful conversations give students the chance to process their thinking, learn from others, and develop the skills they need for success in school and in life.

Speaking and Listening Stems

Keep the Conversation Going at Home

1. Share an Idea

- I think...
- My idea is...
- What do you think?

2. Give a Reason

- I think... because...
- I believe that because...

3. Ask for Thinking

- Why do you think that?
- What makes you say that?
- Can you tell me more?

4. Respond to a Partner

- I agree because...
- I disagree because...
- That makes me think...

5. Build on the Conversation

- Can you explain that another way?
- Can you give an example?
- What do you think now?

Try It Together!

Family Example Prompt: Why do living things change?



When can we use these stems?

- While reading together
- At dinner
- After school
- On the go

The goal is not to have the right answer right away.
The goal is to help children share, explain, and build on ideas.

Speaking and Listening Stems

Keep the Conversation Going at Home

1. Share an Idea

- I think...
- My idea is...
- What do you think?

2. Give a Reason

- I think... because...
- I believe that because...

3. Ask for Thinking

- Why do you think that?
- What makes you say that?
- Can you tell me more?

4. Respond to a Partner

- I agree because...
- I disagree because...
- That makes me think...

5. Build on the Conversation

- Can you explain that another way?
- Can you give an example?
- What do you think now?

Try It Together!

Family Example Prompt: Why do living things change?



When can we use these stems?

- While reading together
- At dinner
- After school
- On the go

The goal is not to have the right answer right away.
The goal is to help children share, explain, and build on ideas.

GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Vocabulary Routine

Helping Students Understand and Use New Words

What is the Vocabulary Routine?

The Vocabulary Routine, developed by **Isabel Beck**, is a research-based process that helps students learn new words in a meaningful way. Instead of just memorizing a definition, students think about what the word means, see and discuss examples, and use the word to share their own ideas.

Why Do We Use It?

- Builds a strong vocabulary for reading and writing.
- Helps students make connections to what they already know.
- Encourages students to use new words in speaking and writing.
- Deepens understanding of texts across all subjects.

The Three-Step Routine

1 DEFINE

Understand what the word means.



2 EXAMPLE / NON-EXAMPLE

Connect the word to meaningful experiences.

Example	Non-Example
	
This is a tree.	This is not a tree.

3 ASK

Use the word to express an idea.



The Big Idea

Knowing a word means more than remembering a definition. When students use a routine to define, explore, and discuss new words, they build a deeper understanding that helps them become stronger **readers**, **writers**, **thinkers**, **and communicators**.

The Vocabulary Routine

A Step-by-Step Look at the Routine

1 DEFINE

Understand what the word means.

We give a kid-friendly definition.



2 EXAMPLE / NON-EXAMPLE

Connect the word to meaningful experiences.

Example



This is a tree.

Non-Example



This is not a tree.

3 ASK

Use the word to express an idea.

We ask a question so students can use the word in their own thinking and speaking.



An Example

Our word: habitat

1 Define

A habitat is the natural home or environment where a plant or animal lives.

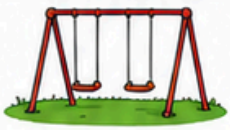
2 Example / Non-Example

Example



A pond is a habitat for frogs.

Non-Example



A playground is not a habitat.

3 Ask

Name an animal and describe its habitat.

Or

Where do you see habitats in our community?

Try It at Home!

Use this simple routine with words you encounter in books, at home, or in everyday conversations.

During Reading
Choose an interesting word from a book you are reading together.

In Everyday Life
Notice new words in conversations, TV shows, or while out and about.

Ask Open-Ended Questions
Encourage your child to use the word in a sentence or share an example.

Revisit and Use Again
Try using the word throughout the week to help it become part of their language.