



# OSERS

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

News, Events and Updates from the Office of the Assistant Secretary

## **HHS, ED, and Too Small to Fail Release the Talk, Read, Sing Together Every day! Toolkit**

*“We know that right now during the first three years of life, a child born into a low-income family hears 30 million fewer words than a child born into a well-off family. By giving more of our kids access to high-quality pre-school and other early learning programs, and by helping parents get the tools they need to help their kids succeed, we can give those kids a better shot at the career they are capable of, and a life that will make us all better off.”*

*-President Obama*

During the first few years of life, children’s brains develop at a rapid pace, influenced by the experiences they have at home, in their early care and education settings, and in their communities. Their experiences include the quantity and quality of words they are exposed to through talking, reading, and singing. Research has found that providing infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with rich early language experiences can have important benefits on their brain development and school readiness.

Today, the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education (ED), in partnership with Too Small to Fail, are releasing “Talk, Read, Sing Together, Every Day!,” a suite of resources that can help enrich children’s early language experiences beginning from birth. This toolkit is the result of a commitment made at the 2014 White House convening focused on bridging the “word gap.”

The suite of resources includes tip sheets for families, preschool teachers, and infant/toddler teachers and caregivers, as well as a fact sheet that highlights the evidence behind the benefits of being bilingual and embracing children’s home languages. All tip sheets are available in English and Spanish, and can be **downloaded for free at [toosmall.org](http://toosmall.org)**.

We hope you find these resources helpful and share them with your networks!