

APRIL 2027

Speaking, Listening & Thinking Critically

This Month's Focus: Literacy is more than reading and writing — it's how students discuss, question, and think critically about ideas. This month highlights speaking and listening as key literacy skills.

Tips for Parents & Families

- Ask your child to explain their reasoning out loud, especially when they disagree with you.
- Practice active listening — put away distractions when your child is talking to you.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about things they read or watch.
- Watch or listen to a school "book talk" together and discuss it afterward.

Tips for School Volunteers & Tutors

Grade Band	Volunteer & Tutor Tip
K-3	Ask simple questions after a read-aloud and let the student answer in complete sentences.
4-6	Practice small-group or family discussion skills — taking turns, building on someone else's idea.
7-8	Prepare for classroom discussion by talking through possible questions and answers together beforehand.
9-12	Practice a mock presentation or friendly debate on a topic the student cares about.

Try This at Home: Family Book Talk

Have your child record (or simply perform live) a 30-second "book talk" about a favorite book, telling the family why they should read it.

"Discourse, debate, and discussion; independently advocates, communicates, and articulates with reasoning."