# EDUCATION MATTERS

# 30 Million Word Gap

## DID YOU KNOW?

- By the age of 3, a 30-million word gap exists between children of the lowest Socioeconomic Status (SES) families and those of the highest SES families.[1]

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Read aloud to your children for 15 minutes a day from birth to grade three.
- By the age of 3, a child should be able to
  - speak with 90 percent of his or her words being understandable;
  - begin copying letters of the alphabet;
  - count from 1 to 10 correctly using objects;
  - recognize and name five shapes; and
  - pretend and make up stories with toys and household items.[2]

U.S. Department of Education
Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
http://www.ed.gov/edpartners

[1] Hart, B., & T.R. Risley. "The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3," *American Educator* 27(1) (2003): 4–9.
[2] The Teacher Home Visit Program. HOME WORKS! (2013) available at http://www.teacherhomevisit.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Pathway-To-Success-Map-23.pdf.


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