



Did you know.....

- Over 80% of your child's brain growth happens before they ever begin school
- The best way to prepare your child for school success is through "parent talk"
- The preschool years are the most important time to make a difference in your child's future success

The Talk to Me program recognizes the power of parent talk. Science has shown us that children exposed to more language in the home experience more brain growth, have a better vocabulary, and become better readers in school. This is important for every child because 85% of their brain develops by the age of 4 and [children who start ahead stay ahead!](#)



What is the Talk to Me Program?

Our program combines 13 interactive parent sessions focused on "Talking Tips" with innovative technology used to measure success. We believe that parents are the first and most important teachers, that every child is born with the same potential for success, and that parent talk is the most valuable resource in the world. We are here to support families as they prepare their children for success in school and life!

Check out our informational video here.....and keep scrolling for more information about our program options!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8Mq7PPYudo>



We offer two program options:

LENA START™

- For parents with children birth to age 3
- Parents attend one-hour small group sessions weekly for 13 weeks
- Parents complete a weekly LENA recording using a small talk pedometer
- This program is free and includes a parent kit and books for your child to keep

LENA HOME™

- For parents with children birth through 4K
- A teacher will bring lessons and activities to you weekly for 13 weeks
- Families complete a weekly LENA recording using a small talk pedometer
- This program is free and your child receives free books at each visit

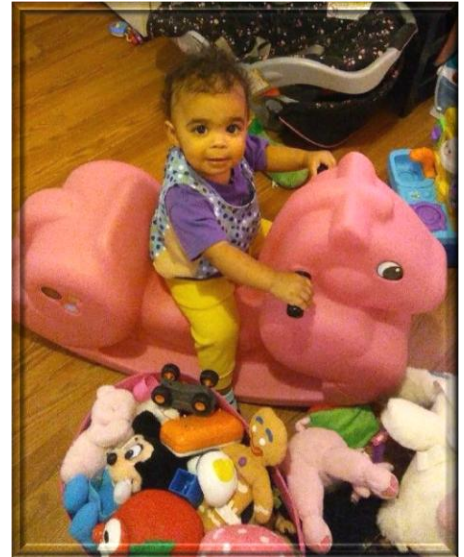
What is a LENA device, and how does the LENA program help me and my child?

LENA stands for Language Environment Analysis. This small device, worn in a vest or shirt, works like a talk pedometer by counting the number of adult words your child hears and the number of conversational turns he participates in. Yes....even a baby can make sounds to participate in a “conversation!”



After learning about a new “Talking Tip” each week, parents get to measure their success in increasing words and conversational turns with their child using this device. After wearing the device for a day, your Talk to Me teacher uses the device to generate an easy-to-read report so parents get to celebrate success! It’s important to note, though, that **the LENA device does NOT have the capability to generate recordings of your conversations** – it is only able to count words, conversational turns, and minutes of “screen time.”

Children wear their LENA devices on one recording day weekly while going about their normal day....even when they are playing, reading, eating, or meeting the Clemson Tiger!



What are parents saying?

- “I recommend this program to everyone. It brings the whole family together. I love it?”
- The learning experiences for me and my child have helped us in so many ways. I really like everything about the program.”

For more information, or to sign up for the program, contact Laura Camp at laura.camp@cherokee1.org or call 864-206-2203 or contact us through our Talk to Me Cherokee website at www.talktomecherokee.com

Be sure to Like and Follow us on FB @talk2me.cherokee!

Would you like to know more?

Check out our FAQ's below!



Q: Does participating in this program mean I'm not already doing a great job as a parent?

A: Of course not! This program is meant to support parents by providing additional materials and modeling specific activities to continue to promote your child's growing language development. It also provides you with results to show your progress....and what parent doesn't like to get a pat on the back for doing a great job? You don't have to be bad to get better!

Q: How often are home visits or group meetings, and how long do they last?

A: The LENA Start (small group) and LENA Home (home visit) program models meet weekly for 13 weeks. Each meeting lasts around 45 minutes, although the LENA Start group meetings sometimes run a bit longer because parents with young children enjoy getting to talk with other parents with young children.

Q: What happens during a home visit or group meeting?

A: Our Talk to Me teachers will share new "Talking Tips" with you at each meeting, and provide information about your child's brain development. Topics include how to read "with" your young child (yes, even your newborn!), how to add new vocabulary using every day activities, how to use open-ended questions with your child to help their language development and thinking skills, and more. After each meeting, you use your LENA device to measure the number of words your child hears and the number of conversational turns they

participate in with you while you are trying out the new “Talking Tips.” The next meeting will begin by getting your weekly graph that will show you your progress with this (it’s the most fun part!). Your child also gets free books at each meeting, and snacks are provided for the adults at all group meetings.

Q: What if I’d like to come to a group meeting but have to bring my young children?

A: Childcare is provided if needed during LENA Start group meetings. Age appropriate activities are provided for your child, and they are supervised by trained personnel who have passed background checks.

Q: When and where are the meetings held?

A: We schedule our meetings at times to best meet the needs of your schedules. Meetings are provided at a location that is convenient for families, such as a nearby school or library. For home visits, we base our visit times on your schedule as well.



**Check back soon for our new video featuring
parent feedback about our program!**

Check out some of our recent Talk to Me GRADUATES!!

