

# CLASS® Infant – Early Language Support (ELS)

**Dimension:** Early Language Support

**Domain:** Responsive Caregiving



**KNOW**

## What is Early Language Support?

**Early Language Support** captures the amount and quality of teachers’ use of language stimulation and language-facilitation techniques to encourage infants’ early language development.

### 3 Early Language Support Indicators:

- ★ 1. *Support language with **Teacher Talk**: use Self-talk & Parallel Talk (describe what you and the children are doing).*
2. **Support Infant Communication** by initiating and imitating sounds and words, also repeat sounds the infant makes.
3. **Extend Communication** by pairing words with actions and sounds and encouraging back-and-forth verbal exchanges.



**Anchor Indicator: Teacher Talk**

*Foundational, easy to understand & practice – a good starting point!*

Reference: Teachstone CLASS® 2008 Manual



**SEE**

### Watch Exemplar Videos:

- [Teacher Talk During Book Reading](#)
- [Supporting Language with Teacher Talk](#)

Reference: Louisiana Department of Education/Picard Center



**DO**

### What ideas do you have to grow **Early Language Support** in your classroom/program?

Explore more examples and helpful tips in our VECC [Language Modeling mini-CLASS video](#), your CLASS Dimensions Guide, and [VECC Cheat Sheet](#).

