Provide a variety of materials for self-expression.

Remember
the child needs you to

- encourage him as he expresses himself
- encourage singing and picture-reading or reading aloud to himself or others
- know he speaks what is on his mind
- introduce new words and explain their meanings
- offer opportunities for him to talk and express his ideas
- provide tools and materials for him to write, draw, listen, read, create, and talk

Remember Remember
-it’s worthwhile to note that children who are constantly playing with words and word sounds from the earliest stages of babbling—learn around 5,000 new words per year between the ages of 6 and 10."

—7 Kinds of Smart, Thomas Armstrong, Ph.D.

Verbal Learner

Materials:
- crayons
- washable markers
- gel pens
- lined paper
- index cards
- blank books or journals
- self-adhesive note pads
- alphabet stamps and washable stamp pads
- unlined paper
- note pads
- God
- ABC
The verbal child may exhibit:

- **Proficiency in using words**
  - hearing stories and retelling stories
  - playing with others in creative play experiences
  - singing songs over and over again
  - talking to himself when working alone
  - listening to friends recorded voices
  - recording a song or telling a story for friends to hear in group time
  - reading a book with a teacher or friend
  - learning names of Bible books or new Bible words
  - writing a letter to mom or dad, sister or brother
  - copying a Bible verse on his artwork
  - negotiating during collaborative play
  - recalling events in a Bible story
  - role-playing doctor, parent, or helper
  - making puppets and playing out scenes
  - documenting a nature experience on paper and describing the scene
  - hearing you ask, “Tell me about your creation.”
  - using letter tiles or magnetic letters to spell names of Bible people
  - listing ways to help or show love
    - touching words of a verse in the Bible
    - working with other children to write a litany, poem, or chant
    - creating Bible markers
    - making a class book

- **Enjoyment in telling stories and hearing stories**
- **A large vocabulary**
- **A desire to write**
- **A tendency to tell you what he is thinking without thinking about it first**

Teachers can encourage learning by:

- providing a variety of books
- creating a writing center for older fives
- using present day stories to make the biblical truth relevant to the child's life
- providing role-playing experiences
- using songs with repetitive phrases (such as “Jesus Loves Me”)
- listen as the child tells you real or pretend stories