

Helping Your Child to Talk

Children learn best when they are having fun. Use toys and games they like to help them to talk.

Children also learn to talk by listening to you when you play with them.

It takes time to learn new words. Children need to hear new words many times to learn to say them.

Let them choose the game, book, or toy

Children like to talk about toys, books, and games they like. See what they like to play with and join them.

You can:

- Respond to what they say and do
- Join in and copy what they do with their toys and games.
- Use fun words and sounds like “pop” or “woof”
- Sit on the floor with your child



Keep your words simple

Children learn by copying you. You can talk about what they are playing with. You can also talk about what you are doing. Keep it simple to make it easy for them to copy you.



If your child is not talking yet, use **one word at a time**. Say the word many times.

For example: Adult: “Car, car, car, go car” Child: “Car”

If your child says one word at a time, use **2-3 words together**.

For example: Child: “Car” Adult: “Car goes up”

Add words to what they say

Add more words to what your child says. This will help them put words together. You can:
Tell them more about what they said,

For example: Child: “dog”
 Adult: “dog is running”

Use correct grammar,

For example; Child: “man run”
 Adult: “The man’s running”

Ask them to choose



Ask your child to choose between two things. Try to get them to say what they want.

For example: a) “Is this the car or the truck?”
 b) “Do you want milk or juice?”
 c) “Do you want to kick or throw?”

When your child can answer using one word, try to ask them for two word answers.

For example: a) “More milk or more juice?”
 b) “Want to watch Cars or watch Buzz?”

If you are worried about your child’s talking or understanding, talk to your doctor about a speech pathology referral.