



Find Times to Talk Throughout the Day

The best way to build a child's language is to have conversations whenever you're together. Children who have more conversations with adults develop better language skills and are more successful at school. Here are some fun ideas for you to try:

Play Time

When using playdough, give the child some time to explore the materials. Join in the play with your own piece of playdough and make comments about what both of you are doing. For example, "Whoa! My snake is big, but yours is gigantic!" Pause for about 5 seconds after you make comments to give the child a chance to think and respond.



Daily Activities

Give the child a reason to comment during mealtime by doing something unusual, like offering a fork when serving soup. Don't say anything. Simply wait for the child's reaction. If they do or say something that shows their surprise, respond with a comment, such as, "You can't eat soup with a fork! You need a spoon!"

On the Go

When waiting in line, sing a song or rhyme the child likes, and pause during the song to wait for the child to do or say something. For example, sing, "Head and shoulders, knees and...", then wait for the child to reach down to their toes or say "toes". If they don't do anything, point to their toes and say, "toes!"

Book Reading

Before sharing a new book, talk about the title and the picture on the cover, and have a conversation about what might happen in the book. You might start by offering your own idea about what might happen based on what you see on the cover, and then ask the child what they think. There are no wrong answers and the possibilities are endless!



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