

Keep the Conversation Going

When children participate in interactions that go back-and-forth many times, they have more opportunities to hear and practice language. Children learn the most from talking about their ideas, so let the child take the first turn to start an interesting conversation. Then, follow the child's lead to keep the interaction going! Here are some fun ways to build back-and-forth conversations:

Play Time

While pretending to cook, if the child says, "I'm making soup!", respond with a related imaginary idea. You could say, "I think I see carrots in that soup." Wait for the child's response and build on it. If they say, "No, it's chocolate soup," you could say, "Chocolate soup is even better! What should I put on top?"



Daily Activities

While getting ready to go outside, if the child says, "Look at my boots!", respond and add an idea – e.g., "Those look like good boots for splashing. I wonder if there are puddles outside today." Wait for the child's answer. If they say, "Yes, big puddles!", ask what might happen if they jump in the biggest puddle.

On the Go

While walking outside, if the child shows you a bandage on their knee, you could say, "It looks like you got hurt! What happened?" Wait for the child's answer and make a related comment. If they say, "I was running and I fell," you could say, "I've fallen like that! One time, I tripped and scraped both knees."



Book Reading

While reading a silly book together (like *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*), respond to what the child finds interesting or funny. If they say, "He can't drive a bus!", you could say, "I think you're right. Why shouldn't the pigeon drive the bus?" Wait for and comment on their response to keep the conversation going!

Notes