



# Find Times to Talk Throughout the Day

The best way to build a child's language is to have conversations that go back and forth a number of times 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

Turn car play into a conversation by joining in! Copy the child's actions with your own car and wait for them to send you a message. Then, add to what they say or do. If the child says, "My car is faster!" you could reply, "Your car is **way** faster than mine!" Wait for their reply, then respond again.



## Daily Activities

During snack, wait for the child to share something – e.g., "I like apples!" Then, pose a related comment or question to keep the interaction going: "Me too! I remember our trip to the apple orchard. What was your favourite part?" Watch the conversation take off as you respond to the child's ideas!

## On the Go

While on a walk, wait for the child to point at something or make a comment – e.g., "That's a noisy bike!" Respond by building on their comment. You could say, "Yes that noise hurts my ears!" Wait for a response, then try adding to what they say with an "I wonder" question: "I wonder where he is going?"

## Book Reading

Offer books about interesting topics – e.g., *Bugs A to Z* by Caroline Lawton for a child who likes insects. Wait for them to start the conversation by pointing or commenting on something in the book, then respond with a related idea and wait. Add "I think" comments while you take turns – e.g., "I think spiders are scary!"



## Notes