



Keep the Conversation Going

The best interactions with children happen during conversations that naturally continue when you **follow the child's lead**. To follow the child's lead, make a comment or ask a question related to what they have communicated. Then pause to give them a chance to respond. Keep this going back and forth! Here are some fun ways to keep conversations going and build language with young children:

Play Time

When the child says, "Look!" and shows you what they're building with magnetic tiles, comment on what the child's structure looks like. You could say, "That looks like grandma's house." Wait for several seconds after you comment to give the child a chance to respond. Keep the conversation going with more interesting comments or questions.



Daily Activities

When the child asks a question about mealtime, such as, "What's for dinner?", you can keep the conversation going with a comment and related question that will interest them, such as, "It's one of your favourites! Can you guess?" Try to keep the conversation going for a few turns.

On the Go

While out for a walk, watch for what interests the child. If they point to a squirrel, make a comment such as, "That squirrel's going up the tree!" Wait for a response and build on what the child says with another comment or open-ended question.



Book Reading

When reading a book together, focus on what the child finds interesting rather than reading the text word for word. For example, if you're reading *Where's Spot?*, the child may lift the flap and say, "Bear!" Respond by saying, "That's not Spot! I wonder where he's hiding." Then wait expectantly to give the child a chance to respond.

Notes