



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

When the child comments on something or shows you something during play, respond with a related idea. If they say, "Look at my shoes!" during dress-up, you could say, "Your shoes are fancy. I bet you're going to a party!" Keep taking turns back-and-forth, balancing comments and questions when you respond.



Daily Activities

If the child looks out the window, crouch next to them and wait several seconds for them to comment or point. If the child says, "Look, birds!", respond with a related comment: "Those birds are flying to warm place because it's cold outside." Build on what they say next with a comment or a question.

On the Go

When out on a walk, wait for the child to point out something interesting. If they say, "There's an airplane!", you could say, "Yes! The people on that airplane are going far away." Wait for the child to respond. Then, keep the interaction going by expanding on their idea with a related comment or a question.



Book Reading

Introduce an interactive book with flaps or doors. Wait for the child to point, comment, or lift a flap - like the pickle flap in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Then make a related comment, followed by a question - e.g., "Pickles taste so sour! Do you like pickles?" Wait again for the child to take another turn.

Notes