

Helping your child to put two words together

- Always talk about what your child is doing or is interested in using short phrases.

For example

CHILD: Child puts teddy in the bed

ADULT: "Teddy sleeping"

- Repeat phrases often: Children need to hear words a number of times before they can say them.

For example

CHILD: Points to the bus

ADULT: "Red Bus.....Red Bus!"

- Repeat words that your child has said with another word added on.

For example

CHILD: "Car!"

ADULT: "Blue car!"

- Always respond positively to your child's attempts to talk, giving frequent praise for good talking.

For example

ADULT: "Good talking!"

- Do not correct your child or ask them to say a phrase (e.g. "Say red bus" – instead model an appropriate phrase).
- Create the need for your child to communicate – do not anticipate needs, instead wait and look expectantly.
 - Offer choices (eg do you want banana or apple?)
 - Give a little and wait for a request for more.
 - Wait to be asked for help.
 - Comment, be dramatic, later pause and wait (eg when it's your turn to say "push car", wait and look at your child expectantly).



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