



Keep the Conversation Going

Conversations naturally continue when you [follow the child's lead](#) by making interesting comments and asking questions that a child wants to answer. To keep the conversation going, build on children's interests, and wait expectantly for a response – pausing for a few seconds so the child has time to respond. Here are some fun ways that you can keep interactions going and build language with young children:

Play Time

Relate what happens during play to the child's own personal experience. For example, if the child is playing with a cash register and paper money, ask about their experience at a real grocery store. Ask what they bought with real money at the store. Make comments to keep the conversation going back and forth for at least five turns.

Daily Activities

While having snack, ask the child a “*What if?*” question to encourage conversation. For example, “What if I opened this bag of crackers, but instead of crackers, I found Lego inside?” Try to keep the conversation going for many back and forth turns.



On the Go

When the child points out a delivery person while out on a walk, follow their lead and ask a question that will inspire some back and forth conversation. Instead of asking a testing question like, “What do we call the person who delivers mail?”, ask something open-ended, like, “What do you think is in the package they're delivering?”

Book Reading

Pause at an exciting point in a familiar book and wait for the child to do or say something. For example, if they point to a picture and say, “Bird”, follow their lead and say something about the bird such as, “The bird is eating a worm.” Wait to see what the child says or does next. Then make a related comment.



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