

Find Times to Talk Throughout the Day

The best way to build a child's language is to have back and forth conversations about what interests them. Children who have more conversations about their ideas and interests develop stronger language skills and do better at school. Try these fun ideas to get started:

Play Time

When playing with blocks, get face-to-face with the child, and wait for them to send you a message. If the child says, "I'm building a house," you could say, "That looks like a cozy house!" Wait for the child's next idea. If they say it's a house for their family, you could ask which is their favourite room.



Daily Activities

While getting ready to go outside, do something unexpected – like pretending to forget the child needs their shoes. Walk toward the door and wait for their response. If they say, "I need my shoes!", you could say, "Of course! You need to wear shoes outside. Do you need anything else?" Wait again for their next idea.

On the Go

While on a nature walk, wait for the child to make a comment about what they see. If the child picks up a leaf and says, "Look at this big leaf!", you could say, "I think this leaf is from an oak tree – it's really big!" Wait for the child's response and add some more new information to their next idea.

Book Reading

While sharing a book, wait for the child to talk about what interests them. If the child says, "The lion is sleeping," you could say, "Yes, the lion is sleeping under the shady tree." Wait and respond to what they say next – e.g., if they say something else about the lion, include that idea in your next comment!



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