



# Expand the Child's Message

Help build children's language by adding words and ideas to what they say. When you respond to what a child says by making their sentence more complete, or by adding a new idea, you model more advanced language that they can learn from. Here are some fun things to try:

## Play Time

When making a holiday craft, if the child makes a comment like, "Nose on!", add to their message to make it grammatically correct. You could say, "Yes, you are gluing the snowman's nose on!" Just hearing your example supports the child's language learning - no need for them to repeat it.



## Daily Activities

If the child is helping with holiday cards or gifts, wait for them to send a message - for example, "Star on!" Then, expand by adding an idea. You could say, "Yes, let's put the star on Nana's card!" This model helps the child to learn how to form a more complete sentence.



## On the Go

At the park, wait for the child to say or communicate something - e.g., "Go swing!" Respond by expanding their idea into a complete, grammatical sentence. You could say, "Okay, let's go on the swings!" Hearing complete sentences helps children use more grammatical language when they are ready.



## Book Reading

When reading a book, like *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, wait for the child to comment - e.g., "Bunny sleeping!". Respond by adding words and emphasizing the correct grammar - e.g., "Yes, the bunny **is sleeping** in the mitten!" Highlight the same grammar again later in the book - e.g., "The bear **is sleeping** in the mitten, too!"



## Notes

