

Talk About What Could Happen Next

Young children generally find it easy to talk about what is happening in the here and now. However, they need help talking about the future because this requires a more abstract use of language. You can help children talk about the future, which includes making predictions, during everyday activities and conversations. Here are some fun ideas to try:

Play Time

When playing with toy vehicles, if the child says, "Let's drive the cars!", you could say, "Okay! I wonder if our cars will drive faster on the tile or on the carpet." Wait for the child to respond. Then, try driving the cars across the different surfaces together and talk about which is faster.



Daily Activities

While baking together, ask a question like, "What do you think will happen if we leave these cookies in the oven for too long?" If the child says, "They'll burn!", you could respond, "Yes, they will burn and then we won't be able to eat them. Let's set a timer so we remember to take them out of the oven on time!"

On the Go

When you're heading to the grocery store, help the child think ahead about what they might see. You could say, "I wonder if we'll see lots of people at the store, or just a few." Then, connect the child's prediction to what you see when you arrive – e.g., "You were right – there are lots of people here today!"



Book Reading

When reading a book together, encourage the child to predict what might happen next. If the child says, "He lost the ball!", you could say, "Yes, the boy lost his ball. Do you think he will find it, or will the dog find it first?" Wait for the child's response before turning the page to find out!

Notes