

Follow the Child's Lead in Conversations

Following the child's lead means letting the child **start** the conversation and responding with genuine interest to what they say and do. This helps create more meaningful back-and-forth interactions, which are key to building strong language skills. Here are some fun things to try throughout the day:

Play Time

When the child is building something, observe and think about what they might be making – but don't say anything just yet! Get face to face and wait for the child to take the first turn. If the child says, "Look at my garage," you could respond with a related comment like, "Your garage could fit two cars inside!"



Daily Activities

While the child is trying to put on their jacket to go outside, wait quietly for them to take the first turn. Listen carefully and respond to the child's message, whether they ask for help or make a comment. If they say, "I can't put my arm in," you could say, "Ok let's put your arm in the sleeve" and help them.

On the Go

At the library, get face to face while the child explores books in the children's section. Wait for them to choose a book and show it to you. If they say, "I want this book!", you could say, "This book is about a puppy. What do you like about it?" Wait again for the child to respond.

Book Reading

When reading a book, let the child hold the book and turn the pages when they want to. Wait for them to comment or show you something in the book. If the child points to a picture of a cat, you could say, "That looks just like the cat next door." Then, wait for the child's next turn!



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