

6 EASY WAYS TO GET YOUR CHILD TALKING

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP



REPEAT WORDS

Use the same words (along with gestures) repeatedly every time you do something throughout the day:
Example: Whenever someone comes and goes, wave and say, "Hi" and "Bye" Hint: you can even practice this with pets, stuffed animals, etc.. ("Look! There's doggie, Hi doggie! Hi doggie!")

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WAIT AND LOOK

When your child is eating and you think he wants more, WAIT and look at him expectantly. Encourage any communication attempts he makes and then say, “Do you want more peas? Ok, MORE peas” and give him more. Hint: you can add the sign ‘more’ as you say it to encourage your child to learn the meaning of the word (sign ‘more’ by touching the tips of your fingers and thumb together and putting the tips of your fingers together repeatedly).

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USE FUN WORDS

Use fun words often and in an exaggerated way over and over in context. Example: When you or your child drops something, look at him and say, "UH-OH! You dropped it! Other fun word examples: "Whee! Mooooo! Yum yum!"

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TALK & HIGHLIGHT WORDS

Talk with your child about what you are doing throughout the day and emphasize your name to encourage your child to say it. Example: ("MAMA is changing you, MAMA is gonna tickle you! MAMA loves you!")

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PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD

Have fun and play games like peek-a-boo! This is a great and fun way to interact and encourage your child's language development. Take turns covering your face, then help your child cover his own face with his hands. You can also include your child's name while you play... example: "Where's Braden?..... peek-a-boo!" Above all, make this a fun time together with your child and enjoy any communication attempts he makes.

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READ

Read with your child. Interact with him while you read, talk about the pictures, ask questions, let him turn the pages, follow his lead! Children often love to read the same books over and over. Books that repeat and have rhyming words are especially good. Don't worry about following the book exactly... make it fun! Point out the pictures together, make animal noises! If your child has a short attention span, put the book down and try again later!