

### Ways to Develop Language in any Situation

You can encourage and develop language in any situation, and you'll be doing it without even knowing it! Just by talking, you're teaching!



Here are some other ways you can add to what you're already doing at home:

1. **Observe, Wait, Listen (OWL) and follow their lead** - You can develop language and play by taking a step back and letting your child take the lead. Feeding language into the play as it is happening, by using simple language to talk about what they are doing.

2. **Remember your language level** - This means using words and sentences that your child can understand and avoiding complicated words, long sentences and difficult instructions.

Use key words and if you use a sentence emphasize the important words.

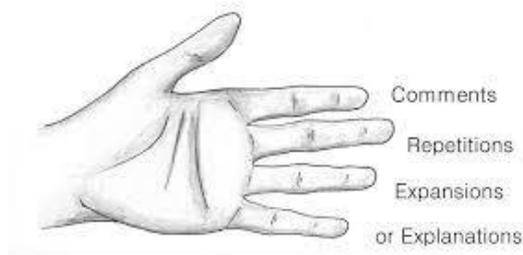
Slow down your talking and point to what you are talking about if you can.

Wait 10 seconds after giving an instruction or asking a question to give your child time to respond. In their way.

3. **Try not to ask too many questions** - When we want to encourage children to talk more or hear what they have to say, we often ask questions. But questions can be really challenging and can make some children feel anxious.

Instead try:

One question to four...



#### How to turn your question into a comment.

Instead of asking - "What are you doing?" say "you are building a tall tower"

- "What's that?" say "It's a big red bus"

- "What did you eat for lunch today?" say "I had tomato soup for my lunch today..."

Pause to give your child time to talk.

4. **Add language** - This is just talking about what your child is doing using simple language or pointing to symbols as you talk using communication boards.

It is an easy thing to do at any time. You can comment on what your child sees, talk about what your child is doing, or expand on what they have said by adding another word e.g. your child say car...you could say fast car, red car, more car, want car. You can do this in any situation e.g. outside, in the bath, sharing a book.

Don't forget to add fun sounds during play e.g. "moo" for a cow, or "beep beep" for a car

**But most of all, keep on talking!**