

First words

- now I'm saying words too

Your child may...

Understand everyday words and actions.

Understand when you have a cross or happy voice.

Understand simple requests. (e.g. Give me teddy)

Use a few words at first, and then learn more.

Use words like 'hello' and 'bye'.

Use lots of sounds, but speech often isn't clear.

Get your attention by pointing, making noises and using words.

Pretend when playing. (e.g. feeding teddy)

Copy your actions and some words. (e.g. in songs)



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First words - now I'm saying words too

Try...

Quiet time to talk



- Your child needs to hear you speak.
- Young children find it difficult to listen to your voice when it's noisy.
- Turn off things like the TV, phones and music.

Face to face



- Sit or bend down so your child can see you talking.
- This makes it easier for her to listen and copy.
- Take the dummy out. Your child may have something to say.

Pause and wait



- Wait for a few seconds.
- Let your child show you what he is interested in.
- Talk a little about it.
- Watch and listen again to see what he does.

Copy and add words



- Keep what you say short and simple.
- Say the main word again and again.
- Your child can then learn that word.



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Words together

- let's keep talking

Your child may...

Understand longer requests without help. (e.g. Show me Mummy's hair)

Understand some words like 'big' and 'in' and what objects are used for. (e.g. Which do you eat?)

Understand some questions. (e.g. What...?, Is...?)

Use 2 to 4 word sentences and may ask 'what's that?'

Keep learning new words.

Use 'p b t d m n w h' with vowels in words; and be learning other sounds.

Have a conversation with her toys.

Listen to a simple picture story.

Stop what he is doing to listen to you.



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Words together - let's keep talking

Try...

Play and talk together



- Have fun playing together.
- Talk about what you are doing.
- Keep it simple.
- Your child will then learn the words.

Face to face



- Sit or bend down so you are face to face when you talk with your child.
- Say the words when giving choices (e.g. Do you want an apple or a pear?).

Pause and wait



- Wait...Count to 10 in your head.
- Give your child a chance to talk.
- Let him talk about whatever he wants to.

Copy and add words



- Show you understand by repeating back your child's words clearly.
- Add new words instead of asking 'What's that?' This will help her learn.



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Talking together

- chatting with you is fun

Your child may...

Understand longer requests, without help. (e.g. Get your bag and put it on the table)

Understand more describing and place words. (e.g. dirty, beside)

Understand more questions in context. (e.g. Where...?, Can...?)

Use at least 4 word sentences, and tell you how he feels.

Use mostly fluent speech, but may stumble over some words.

Start using 'c/k, g, s, f'.

'v, sp, st, r, l, sh, j, ch, th' may be difficult.

Talk about pictures in her own words.

Join in when playing.

Listen and talk to other children during play.



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Talking together - chatting with you is fun

Try...

Play and talk together



- Have fun playing outdoors and indoors.
- Talk to each other about what you are doing.
- Let your child take charge of the game.
- Sometimes copy him.

Pause and wait



- Wait... count to 10 in your head before saying something else.
- It can take children a long time to think of what they want to say.

Copy and add words



- Listen to your child.
- Copy what she says but in the correct way.
- Add words to what she says.

Be careful with questions



- It's best to talk to your child about what he is interested in.
- Most questions don't teach words they only test. Try starting with 'I wonder....' instead of 'What....'



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Chatting now

- talking helps me learn

Your child may...

Understand complex requests without help. (e.g. Give big teddy an apple and a fork)

Understand lots of describing and place words. (e.g. long, behind).

Understand more difficult questions. (e.g. What happened?, Who?)

Use long sentences, but still make some mistakes. (e.g. He falled)

Use words like 'I, she, his, your'.

Use most speech sounds correctly, but still find some difficult. (e.g. r, l, sh, j, ch, th)

Tell you what happened and sometimes what is going to happen.

Join in make believe play.

Start and take a few turns in conversations.



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Chatting now - talking helps me learn

Try...

Play and talk together



- Have fun playing, singing, and looking at books together.
- Make your words sound interesting. This helps your child to listen.

Pause and wait



- Wait.... Give your child time to think and then tell you his idea.
- It can take children a long time to plan what to say.

Copy and add words



- When you child says "it" or "that" say the word she meant. Then say the same word in a sentence.

Be careful with questions



- Don't ask questions to teach new words. Instead say the words again and again in different sentences.



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Listening and talking together

Try...

Repeat and revisit



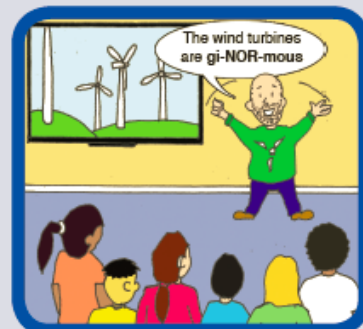
- It is crucial that the adult explains and then repeats new vocabulary across a range of experiences.
- Children need to hear and experience a new word many times before they understand and use it.

Give thinking time



- Wait...count to 7 in your head before saying something else.
- Encourage children to ask for clarification.
- It can take some children a long time to process, plan and do.

Use gestures meaningfully



- Using gesture helps children to concentrate and reinforces new learning.
- When you use gesture, it gives more time for thinking.

Be careful with questions



- It is important to balance comments with questions, particularly for new learning.
- Questions can develop problem solving when they are simple enough to understand.



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