

Building Language Skills

In daily routines you can help your child develop meaningful communication skills. Here are some easy way to work on language:



Follow your child's lead.

When you show interest in what your child wants to play, talk about, or do, they feel respected and comfortable and are more willing to attempt communication.

Play together.

Have fun with your child, and they will build communication skills. Play involves turn taking and routines which are great steps to build language.

Observe your child.

Pay attention to the different ways your child is trying to communicate with you, and respond to those different attempts. For example, your child may be communicating by gesturing or pointing. Your child will feel rewarded for their efforts to communicate and you will learn more about what they can do.

Talk through your routines.

Use simple language to talk through the steps in your daily routines. Use the same words, complete the steps in the same order, and with many repetitions.

Give wait time.

Your child needs time to listen and process. Give your child time to process and respond.

Read!

Reading is a powerful way to build language, vocabulary, and communication skills.

- Talk about the pictures
- Repeat the same book over and over
- Let your child "read" the story in their own way
- Act out the story

Use music.

Songs and rhymes can be a powerful tool to connect with your child.

Praise your child for talking.

Focus on their efforts and achievements. It can help increase their motivation!

Take turns.

Engage in turn-taking routines with your child. This is the start of back and forth conversation.