

Language stimulation in daily activities

Your child learns language through social interaction during regular, daily activities. In these moments, you will help them develop language skills, and also in other areas, such as motor skills, cognition, and social-emotional development. When your child can interact with naturally throughout the day, they build a framework for understanding, and something on which to base their play schemes.

The following strategies are tried and true to stimulate language development:

Language stimulation technique	Example
Comment about what your child is seeing, doing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching during play.	“You’re stirring with the spoon!” “Wow! You put the blocks in the bucket!”
	“Mommy is cutting the carrots.” “Daddy is watering the plants.”
Use repetition and talk about the same things in slightly different ways.	“The bus is coming. Here comes the bus. It comes to get the people.”
Expand your child’s words or phrases to make them a little bit longer.	Child says, “Car.” Adult responds, “I see a car. There’s the car. Car’s going. Bye-bye car!”
Give meaning to behaviors that may seem non-meaningful.	Flapping of arms can be pretending to be a bird. Lying down on the floor can be pretending to sleep.
Avoid asking “What’s this? What’s that?”	Use phrases to label objects, such as “I see a rock,” or say, “I wonder what that is.”
Avoid asking your child to repeat with “Say___”. If you model , and wait , the child is likely to repeat you on his/her own.	Child is given a balloon. Parent says, “ <i>Balloon</i> . That’s a <i>balloon</i> . Red <i>balloon</i> .”
Help your child use the words they already know as much as possible. Take opportunities to point out those objects and talk about them.	Your child can say “cat” and is interested in cats around your home. Parent and child see a cat. Parent says, “Look! Cat’s eating. Cat sleeping. Cat climbing. Meow-meow [with gesture or pantomime]. Bye-bye cat!”

Wait, wait, and wait some more. Show that you're waiting with an expectant look (wide, open eyes, lean towards the child).	<i>Wait</i> for your child to ask you for what they want. If they don't use words, model the words and <i>wait</i>. Point out something interesting (a noisy airplane), and <i>wait</i> to see how s/he communicates. <i>Wait</i> to see what actions your child initiates when you sit down to play together. <i>Wait</i> to see what s/he is interested in when you open a book.
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