

# How To Help Your Child Develop Language

- **Reduce the number of questions you ask.**
  - Instead of asking, “What is this called,” say “ball.”
- **Use simple words.**
  - Speak at your child’s level.
  - If your child uses one word (“ball”), use one or two words back (“ball, please”).
- **Give your child time and expect a response.**
  - Allow extra time for your child to say a word or phrase. Children who have trouble with language need more time to respond.
  - Silence is OK.
  - For example, when playing with a baby doll, say “night-night, baby.” Pause and look with anticipation so your child can respond.
- **Talk aloud.**
  - Talk about anything and everything while you’re doing it.
  - Talk while getting dressed, during your child’s bath or while making meals, for example.
- **Talk about what your child is doing.**
  - “You are playing with a ball.”
- **Take breaks.**
  - Too much activity or stimuli can overwhelm your child.
  - Give your child time to explore on his or her own.
- **Add on to what your child says.**
  - If your child says “ball,” you say “big ball.”
- **Give your child new information.**
  - Repeat what your child says and show him or her how to imitate.
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  - If your child says “car,” you repeat it.
- **Accept your child’s attempt to communicate, even if the word or sound isn’t correct.**
  - Model the correct word or sound.
  - Move on.
  - If your child says “ba,” you say “ball.”