

Saying Two Words Together

Children's sentences develop gradually, and early sentences are formed by putting 2 key words together. Key words can include names of things (**apple, book, car**), action words (**sleep, dance, play**), descriptive words (**big, dirty, red**) and social words (**hello, no, ta**).

To help your child join key words together, expand on what they say by adding another key word. Here are 2 examples:

Child: '**Car**'

Child: '**Juice**'

Adult: 'yes, **green car**'

Adult: '**more juice?**'

Give your child a choice of 2-word phrases, e.g. 'Do you want the **big ball** or **little ball**?' 'Shall we put it **in** the **bowl** or **on** the **plate**?' Emphasise the key words.

The aims of these activities are for your child to start putting 2 words together. Don't worry about them saying the smaller words such as 'is' or 'the'. Use simple, repetitive language. Comment on what they are doing/what is happening.

Keep your language simple during everyday routines. Try to keep your language one stage ahead of your child's and build on what they say by repeating what they have said and adding a word. This shows them what they should start to say next.

More

- ✓ Use bricks to build a tower, or blow bubbles. Encourage your child to say "more bricks" to get another brick or "more bubbles" to ask you to blow some more.
- ✓ At meal times give your child a small amount of food or drink to begin with so he/she needs to ask for more e.g. "more cheese" or "more juice"

Hello or Bye-bye

- ✓ Encourage your child to say "Hello Mummy", "Bye-bye Daddy" when people arrive or leave.
- ✓ When getting toys out or putting them away say "Hello teddy" or "Bye-bye car" etc.

Gone

- ✓ Play hiding games, and say "Dolly gone", "Thomas gone" etc.
- ✓ When in the bath pop bubbles and say "Bubbles gone!" pull out the plug and say "Water gone!" When your child finishes their milk say "Milk gone" and so on.

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

Off/In

- ✓ 'Off' and 'in' are words that can be used over and over again e.g. "Telly off", "Coat off", "Light off", "In the car", "In the bag", "In the cupboard" etc.

Turn taking

- ✓ Play games where you take turns such as building a tower, marble run, throwing bean bags in a bucket, completing an inset puzzle etc. For each turn say "Mummy's turn", "Ben's turn" etc.

Objects that belong to someone

- ✓ When you are sorting toys or clothes show your child and name "Daddy's sock", "Caitlin's ball", "Mummy's bag". Encourage your child to name items and who they belong to as you sort them together.

Actions

- ✓ Choose a favourite toy, e.g. teddy. Make teddy do different actions, e.g. jumping, sitting, sleeping. Talk about what teddy is doing in short phrases, e.g. "Teddy is jumping", "Teddy is sleeping". Repeat these phrases whenever you can to encourage your child to start using them.
- ✓ You can model simple two word phrases when taking part in daily routines such as bath time e.g. "wash hair", "wash toes" etc. or when out shopping e.g. "push trolley", "apples in" etc.
- ✓ Play action games with people and toys and take turns giving instructions. For example, "Teddy dance", "Daddy jump" and "Mummy run"
- ✓ When looking at books comment on what the people or animals are doing and encourage your child to do so as well.

Size

- ✓ Have a range of big and little objects (one big and one little of each object). Ask your child to give you the big cup. Encourage him/her to tell you what he/she has given you.

Describing words

- ✓ Tidying up, meal times or doing the washing are good times to use describing words such as dirty cups, wet plates, big cup, red shirt, two socks etc.