

Communication and Language Top Tips

Model and Extend

Whatever stage a child is at, repeat what they do or say and add an extra word.



For example, your child points to a car.
You say "car". Your child says "car".
You say, "red car". They say, "red car".
You say, "yes, big red car".

Model new words



- When out walking talk to your child and name what you see; "*look a tree*".
- Model correct words. Say 'bird' or 'dog', not, 'birdie' or 'doggy'.

Scan the QR code or click the link to watch the video: [Play the name game when out and about - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Extend



- Listen to your child.
- Extend what they say by adding extra words.
- If your child says, "*mummy car*" you could say "*mummy is driving the car*".

Scan the QR code or click the link to watch the video: [Helping toddlers talk in full sentences - BBC](#)

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Do you know...

Children learn language when it makes sense. Talking to children as they play is a good way to help them learn language.

Comment and describe what your child's doing, as they are doing it. This helps babies and young children hear simple words and phrases.

Children may not understand if you use lots of words without meaning. Try to make comments meaningful, "*your tower is getting taller and taller*".

Expand on what children say as you reply, add one or two words. This helps children begin to link words and ideas together.

All beginners make mistakes. When children make mistakes, it is useful to model back what they say the correct way. This helps children learn the correct form of language.

Recast



- If your child says something incorrectly, repeat this correctly.
- If they say "tat" you can repeat "a cat"
- If they say "dog runned" you can say, "yes, the dog ran"

Scan the QR code or click the link to watch the video: [How to help when toddlers say words wrong - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Talk about what you are doing



- Think out loud. Talk to your child about what you're doing, when you're doing it.
- Children will begin to match what they hear to the object or action, as you talk about it.

Scan the QR code or click the link to watch the video [What can we make to eat? - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

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