

Activities To Help Your Child Use Three Word Phrases

Language work is much more effective if carried out a little and often (e.g. 5 minutes a day, rather than 1 or 2 longer sessions per week).

During your 5 minutes of 'special' time per day, it is recommended for the adult to use the following strategies:

- Let the child choose a toy
- Sit silently with your child and wait for her to make eye contact
- When she makes eye contact (showing that the adult has the child's full attention) and names an object clearly, add to this e.g. if the child says "car" you could say "big car".
- If your child makes eye contact but does not say anything, model a 3 word phrase based on what the child is playing with e.g. "teddy eating apple".

Please do not ask the child to repeat your speech, she will start to use these words when she is ready.

Other ideas to support 3 word phrases:

1. Play enjoyable games with your child, e.g. bubbles. Blow some bubbles for your child and let them pop. If your child says 'pop', you say '(child's name) pop bubbles' or if your child says 'bubble', you say 'more bubbles please'.
2. Posting – make pictures and a post box out of an old shoebox. As your child selects a picture and posts it, encourage her to describe the picture e.g. 'girl running fast'. Remember to go through the pictures with your child before you start an activity so that she knows the words that you are using.
3. Please also see enclosed the Subject Verb Object stimulus pictures. These will support your ability to model three word phrases e.g. 'girl eating dinner' and 'monkey eating banana'.