

Activities To Help Your Child Use Two 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 him to make eye contact
- When he 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 2 word phrase based on what the child is playing with e.g. "teddy eating".

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

Other ideas to support 2 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 'bubbles pop' or if your child says 'bubble', you say 'more bubbles'.
2. Posting – make pictures and a post box out of an old shoebox. As your child selects a picture and posts it, encourage him to describe the picture e.g. 'man sleeping' or 'girl running'. Remember to go through the pictures with your child before you start an activity so that he knows the words that you are using.
3. Mystery bag – put objects in a bag that have an associated action (e.g. ball = kick, cup = drink, book = read etc.). Each take turns to pull out the object and say what it is and what you do with it (E.g. 'read book'). If your child names the object (rather than the action word), add to it (e.g. ball = 'yes kick ball')
4. Use a range of toys which motivate your child (e.g. dinosaurs/transformers/dolls). Use two word phrases within play (e.g. "dinosaur jumping" or "big doll").