

Talking Throughout the Day

*See the pretty
flower?*



Talk to your child frequently throughout the day, naming objects and describing his actions.

Your child will learn many words and may notice the many ways that words are used.

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Why this is important

Letting your child hear specific words for objects and actions helps him understand the purpose of language. He will better understand simple words that are directly related to his actions. He is less likely to understand when given a long sentence. Offering a word or two to describe his actions will help him link the word to its meaning. When he knows what certain words mean, he will begin to practice saying them.

What you do

- Speak to your child with simple sentences and specific language. Instead of saying, *Bring me your things, please*, try saying, *Please bring me your shoes*.
- Offer verbal feedback as he completes the task. *You brought your blue shoes*. Talk about what you expect him to do and what he has just done.
- Replace phrases such as *Let's go* with more specific language. *Let's take a ride in the car*. Use the same specific language when offering encouragement. *You climbed in the car all by yourself!*
- Repeat his own words back to him in simple sentences to give him a pattern for speech. When he says, *Flower*, try to understand what he is trying to say, and expand on his words. *Yes. I see the pretty, yellow flower.*

Ready to move on?

As he understands more words, offer more complex instructions such as: *Please put your blue ball in the toy box.*

Let's read together!

My Love For You
by Susan L. Roth