

Give Your Child Time to Tell

Parents are their child's first teachers of language and speech.
A child copies and learns from the model you give them -
so time spent talking together really counts.

Turn off background distractions like the TV or radio during play and everyday activities. Children learn language best through watching you and joining in with you.

The 3 P's:

Pause

wait for a response before jumping in. E.g. the blocks fall down
- Dad pauses with a shocked look, giving the child a moment to speak.

Prompt

give a gentle nudge if your child doesn't speak up. E.g. Dad holds up his arms and says "Oh no they ..."

Praise

celebrate every attempt to speak, even if it's not quite right. E.g. child says "Cwass!"
- Dad says "They crashed - that's right, good talking!"

Be one step ahead

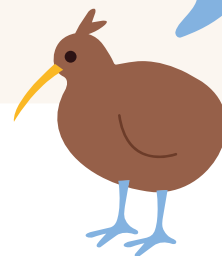
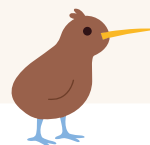
Just as you physically support a child learning to walk up steps, in talking you stay just one step ahead of where they are now. Adapt your language to their level, and add only a little more than they've given you.

Example:

Child:
"Baby sleep"

Adult:
"Mm, baby is sleeping"

Remember
"Add a little bit, not too much."



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