

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Using Child-Friendly Language



SINGLE WORDS

When your child is looking, pointing, or interested in something, give them the word that goes along.

SIMPLE SENTENCES

Use simple sentences of 3-5 words to talk about what's happening right now.

This helps your child hear the words and understand them better.

TOO HARD: "Guess what Jimmy? Mommy's gonna cook you dinner in just a second." JUST RIGHT: "Mommy's cooking dinner".



REPEAT

Choose one or two words to focus on during an activity. Aim to use the words 3-5 times as a model for your child.

SLOW DOWN + WAIT

Speak with a slower but still natural rate to give your child time to hear what you're saying. After you say something, PAUSE to give your child a chance to take a turn in the interaction. Slowly count to 5 in your head before saying or doing anything else.



ADD CLUES

- Exaggerate your TONE to emphasize the important words
- POINT at what you're labeling (e.g. "There's kitty")
- GESTURE (e.g. stretch hands out wide when you say, "So big!")
- Use FACIAL EXPRESSIONS (e.g. scrunch up your face when you say, "Yucky bug!")