

Helping Kids Discover and Develop Language

2 Years

1. The child consistently combines 2 words in short phrases.

For example, the child may use: agent + object (“Mommy sock”), agent + action (“Tommy up”). At this stage a child expresses meaning through the tone of his/her voice and the ordering of words in his/her sentences. Your child may use word combinations that adults do not use (e.g. “all gone juice”, “more up”, “no down”).

SUGGESTIONS:

- When your child produces 1 word, you can immediately use that word in a 2 or 3 word phrase (e.g. Child: “Mommy”; Adult: “Mommy help”). Enlarging the child’s production is called ‘expanding’.
- Use 2 word sentences in your speech that you think your child can produce. Include words in your sentences that you have heard your child use before.
- Talk about what your child is doing while he/she is doing it. For example you can say, “Truck go” as your child pushes their toy across the floor.

2. The child uses 50 to 150 words.

SUGGESTIONS:

- You can increase your child’s vocabulary by exposing him/her to new experiences
- Follow your child’s lead and label new actions and objects in which your child shows interest
- Verbally interact with your child as much as possible
- Use daily routines (e.g. bath time, getting dressed, setting the table) as opportunities to increase vocabulary
- Label objects, people and actions when reading to your child



3. The child uses at least two pronouns such as “me”, “mine”, “my”, and “you”.

These pronouns are not always appropriate.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Use sorting the clothes with your child as an opportunity to use these pronouns. You can talk about to whom the clothing belongs to and where it goes.
- While looking at pictures talk about people in the photos using pronouns (e.g. “This is mom. Here she is.”)

4. The child uses negative forms such as “not” and “no” in combination with another word.

The child may say “No shoe” when he/she expects their shoes to be in a place where they are not. “Not go” when he/she does not want to leave.

SUGGESTION:

- If your child says “no” or “not”, expand their statement by adding a second word (e.g. if your child says “no” while you are pouring juice, respond with “No juice”)

5. The child can be understood by people 50 to 60 per cent of the time.