

Communication Home Program: Advanced Skills

This program provides tips on expanding your child's expressive language skills.



Your Child is Working On:

- Making requests of wants/preferences with 2+ word phrases
- Commenting on shared enjoyment or interests

What to do at Home: Tempt your child to communicate. This means you will set up an opportunity for them to initiate communication rather than answer a yes/no question. It is critical to give your child opportunities to be the initiator of communication as their communication skills increase to promote language expansion.

BBD Tip: Tickle your child once. Then stop just before you are about to tickle them again. This may cue your child to say "more tickles" or "tickle me". In addition to expanding utterances, you can comment on shared enjoyment by narrating, "you like tickles!"

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You Can Help Your Child During:

Playtime:

- Keep desired items out of reach from child to promote requesting rather than the child obtaining the items on their own
 - Ex. when playing with play-doh, give the child play-doh but keep all play-doh tools and accessories within sight but out of reach (on the counter, in a box with a difficult to open lid)
- Pretend play cooking or kitchen
 - Model requests such as "I want soup"
 - Model expanded utterances when your child uses one word to request
 - Ex. child says "pie" > you state "oh you want pie" while handing them the object
 - Model shared enjoyment by enthusiastically "eating" the food they've prepared for you

Build Your Skills:

Practice making requests during mealtime.

1. Expand your child's utterances.
 - Your child points to apple and says "apple"
 - You acknowledge and expand their utterance by saying "I want apple"
 - Then give them the apple
2. Give your child a verbal cue to expand his/her own utterance.
 - Your child points to apple and says "apple"
 - You say, "I want..."
 - This prompts the child to say, "I want apple"
 - This is also true for a child using a Speech Generating Device
 - The child selects one icon, "apple". You select "I want" to facilitate utterance expansion.

Tips and Tricks:

- Exhibit an enthusiastic affect when narrating items or activities that your child likes
 - Ex. "Yum, I love applesauce!"; "Wow, that tower is so big"