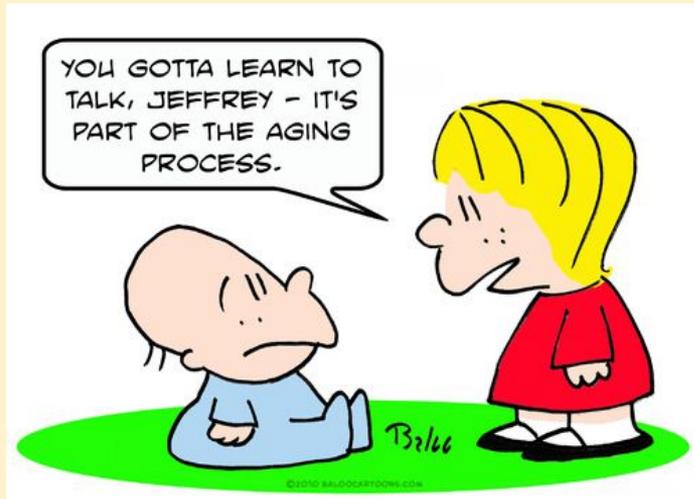


How to develop and support early language





The following ideas can be for babies or older children but remember, your child is always listening so ensure you model the language that you want them to learn and use.

- **Speak clearly and slowly**

Ensure that language is modelled correctly and the child has a chance to hear what is being said.

Talk to your child to explain what you are doing.

It can be as simple as: I am going to clear the table now then wash the plates.

- Pause for response

Give time for child to process and respond - time to think about what is being said and how they will respond to you.

- Reward your child with a smile, thumbs up, clapping

We all love to be rewarded and by rewarding your child with a smile, thumbs up or clap, you are giving them instant positive feedback. Even older children can be rewarded for using interesting or new language.

- Ask fewer questions but make a comment about what they are doing

Too many questions at once may confuse a child. Ask a question about what they are doing, then comment on what they are doing to model the language.

Eg: That's a nice car, what colour is it?
That's a fluffy teddy, what is he doing?

- Say their name before you speak to them and make eye contact (if they are comfortable with that).

By saying their name, they are more prepared to listen.

- Use **action** words (**verbs**) not just naming words (nouns)

By modelling language, you are developing theirs.

eg: This is a book - shall we **open** the book.
That's it - you are opening the book, let's **turn** the page.

Let's **jump**! Show me how teddy would **eat** his dinner. Look, teddy is **eating** his delicious dinner!

- Sing/say nursery rhymes

Rhyme and rhythm are not only fun for your child, but they are the building blocks for reading and writing.

Repeat over and over then leave a gap for your child to say the word.

Eg: Humpty Dumpty sat on a, Humpty Dumpty had a great ...!

- Say predictable phrases/Read books with predictable phrases

Ready, steady go!

Peek-a boo!

The Enormous Turnip, The Gingerbread Man, We're going on a bear hunt.

Children love repetition! Let them finish the phrase. Remember to praise them.

- Naming songs

Old MacDonald

The Wheels on the Bus

Heads, Shoulders Knees and Toes

- Counting songs

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, once I caught a fish
alive.

One, two, buckle my shoe

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed

5 Current Buns

- Action songs

Wind the bobbin up

Teddy bear, teddy bear

Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow

Sleeping Bunnies

The Wheels on the Bus

Websites that might help:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/activities/zjh8hbk>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/eyfs-listening-skills/zbc4y9q>

<https://games.vocabularyninja.co.uk/games/MagicVerbs/>

<https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>