

## Start Well Early Years Communication and Language Development Tips of the Month for Parents – October 2022

Model and extend your child's words: Repeat what your child says and add an additional word.

### Parents with babies:

- Use your baby's babble to communicate. Copy back the noises they make and add some of your own. Leave time for them to respond.

### Parents with toddlers:

- Repeat any attempt your child makes at a word, so they hear the correct way to say a word. Use this in play when your child is focused on an activity.

### Parents with young children:

- Extend your child's words by copying what they say and adding an extra word. For example:  
"Car - **Fast car. The car is moving fast.**"  
"Cat - **Cat sleeping. The cat is sleeping. It must be tired.**"

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## Activities to try at home

### Parents with babies:

- Extend your baby's babble by adding a word with the noise. So if your baby says "la,la,la,la" repeat "la,la,la,la singing".

### Parents with toddlers:

- Play 'What's in the bag?' Fill a bag (or box) with some objects and see if your child can name the item you pull out. E.g., "*What's in my magic bag? It's a.....*" (Pause and wait for your child to name the object). Repeat and extend "*Yes, it's a spoon. A shiny spoon.*"

### Parents with young children:

- Go on a bug hunt together and see what insects you can find. Encourage your child to talk about their findings by asking simple questions. E.g., **Adult:** "*What have you found?*" **Child:** "*Worm, it wiggly.*" **Adult:** "*You've found a worm in the soil. It's wiggling on your hand.*"

Want to find out more about your child's learning and development in the early years?

### Download:

[What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage: a guide for parents](#)



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