

My child is trying to tell me things but I can't always understand. Sometimes they just make noises or use babble.

Translate!

Why?

You are giving your child the words they need to help them to learn to talk. You are also letting them know that you are listening to them and trying to understand them. This is a really good way to encourage your child to keep trying to talk.

What can I do?

- Say what your child is trying to say, or what they would say if they could.
- Have a guess at what they might be trying to tell you, then say it for them.
- Add words to make it a short sentence, e.g. "car... Daddy's car."

By watching your child closely, it helps you to know what your child is interested in. Then you can 'translate'!

- If your child communicates through gesture and sound....



Ugh, ugh

Yes, **dolls**

...say the word that goes with what they're looking at.

- If your child doesn't use many words yet, but you can see they are interested in because you can see what they are looking at....

Tower, a big tower



...say the word that goes with what they are looking at.

- If the words they use can be hard to understand, but you have an idea of what they are trying to say....



ane, ane

Yes a **plane!**

...repeat the word back to check you have understood.