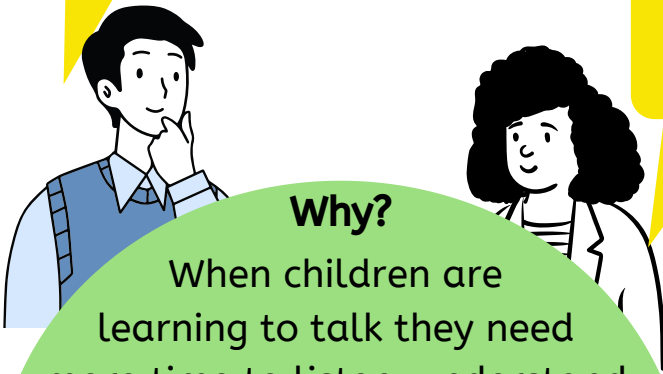


I want to help my child to use new words. I've tried asking my child to say the word back to me. Nothing seems to happen.



Why?

When children are learning to talk they need more time to listen, understand, think and say things. Waiting gives our children the chance to learn to communicate in their own way. We can help by being ready to respond to our children after we have waited.



Dinner Time

- Put out a few small dishes of finger foods for you to share with your child, e.g. sliced apple, carrots, raisins.
- Sit together and **WAIT** to see what your child does
- Show you are interested by responding to what your child is doing or telling you. e.g. Child: points at apple and looks at Dad. Dad: "apple, you want some apple?"

Everyday

- Any time you ask a question or make a comment remember to **WAIT!**
- Watch for your child's verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Listen to what your child tells you and respond with interest.

Try waiting

What can I do?

- In everyday routines give your child some time to talk - you don't need to say something straight away.
- **Wait** to see if your child looks at you, points, or says any sounds or words.
- **Then** use a short sentence or word to go with what your child is doing to show you are listening
- Then **WAIT!** Up to 10 or 15 seconds. But keep showing interest. Watch out for your child's response.

Watch Out!

Are you doing all the talking? If so, remind yourself to wait more and for longer to give your child a chance.

Bathtime

- Put some plastic objects in the water, e.g. cups, jugs
- Get down on the floor with your child and get face to face.
- Let your child explore.
- **WAIT...** for them to look at you, or point or make a sound before you make a comment