



## Using more words

Children learn **new words** when they hear and experience them together.

**New words** develop during children's play and day-to-day activities.

To help children use **more words**, you can:

**Repeat key words** often in your play together, and

**Add on new words** to what children have said.

## Play with more words: Use key words in your play together



### Play...with a doll or bear

Play with a baby doll or a bear. Talk about what your child is doing. Repeat **key words** a few times, in short sentences.

Child: (*hugging the baby*)

Child: You're **hugging** your baby. You're **hugging** him. Lots of **hugs** for the baby.



### At home...getting dressed

Use short sentences to talk about getting dressed.

Repeat **key words** as you put on each item of clothing.

You: Put your socks **on** first. Now one shoe **on**, and two shoes **on**! Hats **on**, and we're ready to go!



### Out and about...at the park

Visit the park together, and talk about what you see.

Repeat what your child says, and add on **new words**.

Child: Bird.

You: **A bird in the tree!**



## Using more words

**Read** with more words: Visit the library and borrow some books

*Imagine* by Alison Lester

*This and That* by Mem Fox

*Jungle Drums* by Graeme Base

**Words** to grow: Use these words in your day

Children use words for what they can see, do or experience.

Naming words: *names of people and things at home, day-care, and on outings*

Action words: *go, eat, bite, break, cry, wipe, jump, kick, sleep, smile, walk, play*

Describing words: *big, little, funny, yummy, yucky, smelly, blue, yellow, soft, loud*

Location words: *in, on, under, next to, behind, in front of, between*

**Learn** about more words: Ways to help language grow

When you **repeat key words** in short sentences, you are:

- Giving lots of opportunities for children to hear the words, and
- Showing them how the words are used in a meaningful way.

When you **add on new words** to what children have said, you are:

- Showing that you understand what they have said, and
- Helping children learn how to add more information.

Children do not have to repeat words after you. The more often children hear **new words** in sentences as part of their day, the more likely they will understand **more words** and begin to use them in their own talking.

**Speech pathology key terms:** increased vocabulary, focussed stimulation, expansion.