

How can I help my child understand language at different ages / stages?

Up to 6 months

- ⇒ Talk to your baby about the things that are going on around them.
- ⇒ Leave gaps in your talking so they can respond – with sound or smiles, or a look copy your baby's sounds such as "ma," "da," and "ba"
- ⇒ Don't be afraid to talk to your baby in a 'singsong' voice
- ⇒ Use proper words rather than baby words e.g. 'cow' instead of 'moo moo'
- ⇒ Sound 'lively' and interesting when talking
- ⇒ Use gestures along with words e.g. say 'bye-bye' and wave.
- ⇒ Sing songs or nursery rhymes
- ⇒ Look at books together and tell your baby what you see



6 to 18 months

- ⇒ Talk to your baby in simple sentences about the things that are going on around them.
- ⇒ Avoid asking questions.
- ⇒ Give your baby the names of things she is interested in, e.g. "teddy"
- ⇒ Use proper words rather than baby words e.g. 'cow' instead of 'moo moo'
- ⇒ Sound 'lively' and interesting when talking
- ⇒ Use gestures along with words e.g. say 'bye-bye' and wave.
- ⇒ Sing songs or nursery rhymes
- ⇒ Look at books together and tell your baby what you see
- ⇒ Translate your baby's gestures e.g. your baby puts their arms up... you say "up"

18 months – 2 years

- ⇒ Talk to your toddler in simple sentences about the things that are going on around them. Don't ask questions
- ⇒ Give your toddler the names of things she is interested in, e.g. "teddy"
- ⇒ Use proper words rather than baby words e.g. 'cow' instead of 'moo moo'
- ⇒ Use gestures along with words e.g. say bye-bye and wave.
- ⇒ Sing songs or nursery rhymes
- ⇒ Look at books together and tell your toddler what is happening
- ⇒ When your toddler says a word, you add a word .e.g. 'car' you say "big car".

2 to 3 years



- ⇒ Talk to your toddler in simple sentences about the things that are going on around them. Don't ask questions
- ⇒ Give your toddler the names of things she is interested in, e.g. "teddy"
- ⇒ Use proper words rather than baby words e.g. 'cow' instead of 'moo moo'
- ⇒ Use gestures along with words e.g. say bye-bye and wave.
- ⇒ Sing songs or nursery rhymes
- ⇒ Read books with pictures, rhymes, repetitive lines, and few words
- ⇒ Read favourite books over and over again so that your child can join in with

4 to 6 year olds

- ⇒ Give your child time to respond
- ⇒ Don't be afraid to use new words when talking with your child.
- ⇒ Talk about things they are interested in

