



## 5 Ways to Grow Your Child's Language:

### *Follow your child's lead*



Notice what your child is interested in and join their world. Use their interests as a way to spark connection and communication. Children are more motivated to communicate when they are interested and engaged.

### *Get Face-to-Face*



Sit or kneel so you're at your child's eye level during play or conversation. Being face-to-face helps you and your child establish and maintain joint attention, which is a building block for communication.

### *Pause & Wait*



After you ask a question or make a comment, pause for 5 - 10 seconds. Give your child time to respond with a word, gesture, or look. Waiting shows your child that you're listening and gives them time to process and respond at their own pace.

### *Add language to Everyday Moments*



Add language to your interactions by talking about what you and your child are seeing, doing, and feeling: "You're stacking the blocks!", "You dropped it - uh oh!", "We're putting on your shoes." Children learn language during everyday moments.

### *Tune in & Respond*



Respond to your child's sounds, gestures, facial expressions, or words even if it's just a glance or a babble. Smile, repeat their sounds, comment on what you think they're trying to tell you, or simply pause and tune in. Your response shows them that their communication matters.

