Putting two words together

Developing Language skills - Putting words together

Two word phrases

Children need to understand words before they are able to say them. Once they can say about 50 words, which include the name of objects, people and actions they are ready to start putting two words together to make little phrases. At this stage we need to encourage them to combine familiar words in everyday situations and in their play.

How you can help:

• Expand your child’s single words by adding information e.g. if your child wants another drink and says ‘drink’ or ‘more’ you can say ‘more drink’
• Model phrases using two words e.g. ‘Bye-bye grandma’, ‘Mummy’s car’
• Use short, simple sentences that your child can understand so they are more likely to copy you
• Emphasise the most important words in your sentence e.g. ‘the teddy is sleeping’
• Encourage your child to point and use gestures when they speak
• Remember your child will need to hear the phrases lots of times before they will begin to use them

Activities you can do to help your child:

• Use words like ‘more’ to develop two word phases. You can use ‘more’ in many different ways e.g. when playing with bubbles, bricks, simple jigsaws, cars etc. The word ‘more’ can be used at snack times and mealtimes e.g. give your child a small drink and encourage them to ask for ‘more drink’. ‘Gone’ is another useful word for developing two word phrases e.g. ‘Grandma’s gone’
• Use two word phrases in everyday activities
  • Dressing and undressing – ‘sock on’, ‘shoe on’ or ‘shoe off’, ‘sock off’
  • Bath time – ‘wash toes’, ‘wash tummy’ etc
• Add action words when playing e.g. ‘My teddy’s eating’, ‘dolly’s walking’ and when commenting on everyday activities e.g. ‘baby’s crying’
• Use people’s names e.g. ‘Mummy’s shoes’

For further information please contact: Department of Speech and Language Therapy
If you live in Gateshead telephone: (0191) 445 6667
If you live in South Tyneside telephone: (0191) 283 2484

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