Sentences

**Developing Language Skills - Sentences**

Once your child is able to put two words together to make short phrases **and** can use them in different situations, they are ready to develop longer sentences.

**How you can help:**

- Expand your child's short phrases by adding information  
  e.g. if your child says ‘Grandma gone’ you would say ‘yes, Grandma’s gone to work’

- Use lots of simple phrases when speaking to your child  
  e.g. ‘Get the big blue car’ or ‘Put teddy in the bed’

- Stress the key words in your sentence  
  e.g. ‘Get me John’s red jumper’

- At this stage it is important not to correct your child’s sentences  
  (in terms of word order, grammar or pronunciation).  
  Model back the correct sentences e.g. if the child says ‘Ben goed wimming’ - you would say ‘yes Ben went swimming’

- Be aware of the questions you ask. In the early stages of language development, children find it hard to answer open ended questions such as ‘What did you do at Ben’s house?’, ‘How did you hurt your finger?’ They will be more successful with yes/no questions (Do you want a drink?) or forced ‘alternative questions’ (Shall we go to the park or to town?)

**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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For further copies of this leaflet or if you require this information in another format or language please contact: Department of Speech and Language Therapy numbers above.