

Simple Communication Tips to Support Toddler Speech

Daily Tips

During Everyday Moments

- Pause and wait before responding
- Give your child time to gesture, point or attempt a word
- Follow your child's lead
- Talk about what they are interested in during play
- Model simple language
- Use short, clear phrases (e.g., "more juice, "big ball")
- Reduce the number of questions

While Playing & Interacting

- Use descriptive language
- Narrate actions and label objects during play
- Repeat and expand
- If your child says one word, model a short phrase
- Gestures - pointing, waving, and showing help build communication

Helpful Reminders

Keep in Mind

- Your child does *not* need perfect communication to make progress
- Small changes lead to big differences
- It's okay to slow down to give your child more time to respond
- Daily routines (mealtime, play, bath) are best learning opportunities

When to Look Closer

- Your child rarely attempts to communicate or interact
- You often speak or act before your child has a chance
- Limited back-and-forth interaction during play
- You're concerned about child's speech or understanding



Additional Info

*Parenting communication styles play an important role in speech and language development. By becoming more intentional with how you respond, pause, and interact, you can create more opportunities for your child to build communication skills naturally.

- If you're concerned about your child's development, consider speaking with your pediatrician or a speech-language pathologist.
- Early support can make a meaningful difference!

