

BUILDING CONVERSATIONS

TIPS FOR TALKING WITH YOUR TODDLER

Everything is new to your toddler as they explore and experience more of the world independently. They are growing faster than their language can keep up as they transition from words to sentences and conversations and want to use their language to express bigger things – and bigger emotions! Talking in lots of different ways with lots of different words helps your toddler build a strong foundation of communication skills.

BUILD ON THEIR WORDS

TRY!

Add a few words to whatever your toddler says or shows interest in.

Building on your child's words and gestures helps them learn new vocabulary and turn words into phrases and sentences.

WHY?

TALK ABOUT THEIR TOYS

TRY!

Name the things your child is playing with, describe what they're doing, and join in their play!

Talking about what interests your child helps them learn how sentences work.

WHY?

DIG DEEPER WITH QUESTIONS

TRY!

Ask questions that have more than a 'yes' or 'no' answer.

Open-ended questions help your child start to think and talk about the world around them.

WHY?

GO DEEPER WITH ANSWERS

TRY!

Provide more information when answering your child's questions.

Your explanations help your child learn about the world around them.

WHY?

PLAY PRETEND

TRY!

Encourage, celebrate, and join your child's pretend play.

Children learn about the world and develop social, emotional, and language skills through play.

WHY?

TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE

TRY!

Talk about future events and ask questions about things that haven't happened yet.

Talking about the future helps children learn to plan and predict beyond the present moment.

WHY?

TALK ABOUT THE PAST

TRY!

Talk about things that happened earlier in the day or in the past.

Talking about past experiences helps your child build memory and storytelling skills.

WHY?

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

TRY!

Add a few more turns to some of your conversations.

Modelling longer back-and-forth conversations helps your child learn and practice their own conversational skills.

WHY?

GROW THEIR VOCABULARY

TRY!

Use lots of different words to describe people, objects, feelings, and actions.

Hearing a wide variety of words helps children understand and use more language.

WHY?

POINT OUT PRINT

TRY!

Notice letters and words on signs, labels, and logos around you.

Children learn that print is everywhere and that letters come together to form words, which have meaning.

WHY?

EXPAND THEIR WORLD THROUGH BOOKS

TRY!

Wordless books, touch & feel books, pop-up books, and rhyming board books are great ways to practice all these tips! As you read, try making connections to your child's experiences.

Regularly sharing books builds vocabulary, conversation, and early literacy skills. Over time, your child will be able to join in more and more!

WHY?