

## Five Valuable Tips That Encourages Language and Speech Development of Your Toddler

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### Language and Speech Development

It is very difficult for you to judge the rate of development of language and speech of your child because every child is different and so their rate of language and speech development. It's your duty to observe whether your child's rate of speech is constantly improving or not. It's natural that by the age of three you will be able to understand what your child says. At the same time, your child will be able to understand what other people say.

It may be possible that your child can speak but his words won't flow smoothly. He may face difficulty in expressing his thoughts in full sentence because of the broken syllables or words. This may result in a lack of clarity in speech.

There are time-proven 5 valuable tips can be of great help to your child. These tips help in improving your child's communication skills and his quality of life. He can communicate easily and freely with family, friends, and others.

#### Tip 1: Talk about what you are Doing

When you are with your toddler, you should make an effort to talk about what you are doing, seeing, touching, eating, or listening to. Speech pathologist called this self-talk. Keep it short, simple, and fun.

For example: "I am washing the dishes..." "... now I am drying them..." or "I see a doggie..." "...he is a big doggie." While talking don't expect your little one to repeat you. Narrating what you are doing simply gives your child exposure to the language. It helps your child understand that talking is not only fun but also functional.

#### Tip 2: Talk about what your Child is Doing

When you are watching your child play, talk about what he or she is doing. Speech therapist called this "parallel talk." Use simple words that are easy to understand for your toddler. Don't forget to keep the sentences short and simple. For example, "You are building a big tower! Wow!" or "You threw the ball! Nice throw, dear!"

#### Tip 3: Avoid Asking Too Many Questions

If you ask too many questions, your child may feel like you are testing him, and it can be overwhelming. You can rather take the help

of simpler comments. For example, instead of picking up a toy car and asking, "What is it?" you can say, "This car runs fast!" Pause and wait for a few seconds to see if he responds. If he doesn't say anything, you should add another comment like, "I love your car."

After a few comments, you can throw in an open-ended question like: "Where is your car going?" Don't be discouraged if he doesn't respond since some open-ended questions can be a challenging word-retrieval task.

#### Tip 4: Give Options

If you find that your child is not responding well to open-ended questions, then offering an option may make his response a little easier. When we give options to the toddlers, we are telling them that they have some control and their input matters. Providing choices and options also encourages decision-making ability and promotes language development. "Dear do you want to play with the car or the boat?" Have the car and the boat in your hands and hold each one up while you present each choice. If you offer a choice to your child, it will be easier for him to imitate and repeat the same thing. It will also help him to point or gesture the same thing if he can't say anything yet.

#### Tip 5: Expand Your Toddlers Language

When your toddler starts combining two words while speaking, he may try to say something like: "I play" or "baby sleep". Take this opportunity to add in the missing words to make it a grammatically correct sentence. So, you can say, "I am playing" or "baby is sleeping."

#### Final Thought

Give your child time to improve his language and speaking skills. Your patience and positive outlook play a significant role in helping your child to learn and improve his skill. Your child benefits the most when you empathise with him.

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