



HELPING YOUR TODDLER WITH TALKING

FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S INTEREST

Playing is an important language learning activity. When you join your child's play you can help to make this an even more effective way to improve attention, learn words and develop interaction skills. To get the most out of play, it helps to follow your child's interest rather than direct the activities yourself.



Why?

- Your child will interact for longer
- Your child will feel more relaxed
- Your child will be less passive and more confident
- Play will progress at a pace that is the right level for your child
- You will both enjoy sharing play together

How do I follow my child's interest?



1. Getting down to your child's level helps you to know what your child is looking at.
2. Watching their facial expression and focus of attention helps you to know when they have lost interest and moved on to another toy.
3. Helps your child to understand about interacting with other people.



1. Watch your child playing- what do they do with their toys?
2. Your child might not be using the toys in the way you expect for example stacking cars rather than racing or banging bricks rather than building.
3. This is still play and gives you an opportunity to join in.



PAUSE

1. Don't rush to help or to tell your child what to do.
2. Try to avoid questions or using too much language to start with.
3. Sit at your child's level and play alongside them by copying their actions.



LISTEN

1. Join in with your child's ideas and play.
2. Notice how your child communicates with you and any noises they make during play.
3. Copy your child- how do they respond?

Have Fun!