

Imitate and Add Key Word(s)

To help your child begin to combine words, you can imitate what your child said and add key word(s). When you imitate and add key word(s), *copy what your child has said or done and add key word(s)*. Highlight the word(s) you have added by saying them a little louder and slower so it stands out. You can also add a gesture. This will increase your child's success and decrease both your and your child's frustration.

Your child uses a gesture

Imitate your child's gesture and add a word to match the gesture.

E.g. Your child reaches her arms up. You put your arms up and say "Up."

Your child says one word

Imitate your child's word and add key word(s).

E.g. Your child says "**juice**". You could say "apple juice" "pour the juice" or "I want juice"

Your child says two words

Imitate your child's words and add key word(s). Make sure you include all the grammar.

E.g. Your child says "**red dog**". You could say "I see a red dog" or "it's a big dog"

When you are adding to your child's one or two word phrases, try adding action words and describing words to their comments. e.g. If your child says: "**Doggie bone**" You could imitate and add by saying "yes, the doggie's eating a bone."

It is not necessary for your child to repeat after you. You are simply providing a model for your child that they can imitate and/or use when they are ready.