

Give Your Child a Word

When you, Give Your Child a Word, You

- Help your child understand new words and
- Help your child use new words when he or she is ready

1. Use the same word for the same thing each time you talk about it.

This gives your child a consistent new word to learn. If you use different words, like “more” and “again” to mean the same thing or “cat”, “kitty”, “kitty cat”, it will be more difficult for your child to connect the word with what it refers to.

2. Use specific words

For example, instead of saying “Put it there” , use more specific words and say “Put the **book** on the **table**”

3. Don't ask your child to repeat words after you.

Children will learn new words by listening to you and will try them when they are ready. Asking them to say words by repeating them after you can make them feel pressured. A good rule of thumb is “**Don't say 'say'**” .

4. Add a variety of words.

It usually comes naturally to add the name of an object- like “book”, “baby” or “car”. Be sure you add other types of words too, like words that describe (“hot”, “broken”, “all gone”), words that give a location (“in”, “on”, “under”), action words (“sleep”, “drink”, “eat”) and social words (“hi”, “night –night”, “bye”).

5. Add a word to match the moment –and be ready for unexpected.

For example, you may be planning to add the word “crayon” or “colour”. But when the crayon in your child's hand suddenly breaks, you could say “broken...crayon is broken” instead.