

# Early Language Tips

## Play

- Get **face to face** so your child can see you when you say words. Get down at your child's level and sit across from them.
- Let your child **lead** during play. Follow them and **talk** about what they are doing and what they are looking at. This helps them learn new words.
- Get your own toys. **Join in!** Everyday objects can be toys (e.g., pots/pans, boxes).
- Watch for your child's eye gaze, gestures, sounds, or words. **Wait** for them to show you what they want.
- Give your child **choices**. Hold up two things and name them (for example: "milk or juice"). Your child might reach, make a sound, or try the word.
- **Playing** and **doing** things with people helps your child learn best. **Limit screen time.**

## Copy

- Copy your child's **gestures** and add a sound or word.
- Copy the **sounds** or **words** that your child makes. Take **turns** making sounds. Encourage them to copy your sounds or words.
- **Repeat** important **words** and say them **louder**. These are the words you want your child to copy. Repeat these words many times.

## Say

- **Name** the things your child sees and does. Hold things near your mouth as you name them.
- Say a word that **matches** your child's gestures or sounds. Take your best guess. For example: Child: "Uh" (reaches for cookie), Adult: "Cookie". Then give them the cookie.
- Speak in **short, simple** phrases. For example: "I want a ball" and "The ball goes in".
- Try to turn questions into **comments**. For example, instead of saying "Is this a ball?" you could say "It's a ball!"

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