



Communication and Language at Home

CPS CMT Team

Communicating with your child

How quickly a child assigns meaning to words is strongly related to the amount of language they have heard as part of adult-child conversations.



- Use **conversation starters** to elicit discussion.

- **Take turns** with your child to speak.

This provides opportunities for your child to practise using language and receive feedback from parents.

- **Plan things together** with your child and get his opinion. (eg, grocery list, what to eat/ play, thoughts on articles/ stories read)

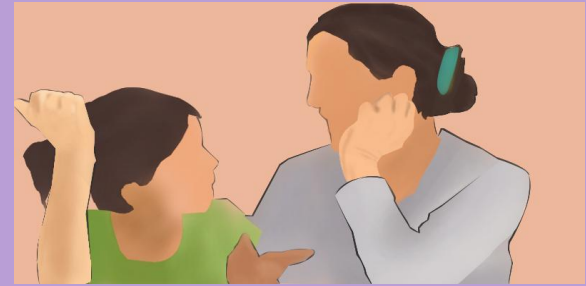


- **Listen** to and **reflect** on what your child says. (eg, “It sounds like you prefer going to school, how can we make this circuit breaker more interesting for you?”)

Parental Modeling

The amount and style of language that parents use when conversing

with their children is one of the strongest predictors of children's language development.



- During conversations, you can **share your own responses** first.
- Help your child to **rephrase** his answers in full sentences.
- **Narrate** what you are doing.

Use sentences to talk about or describe **what you are seeing, hearing or doing** when you are with your child. (eg, when making cookies, you may say “Mommy is making cookies! I am putting the chocolate chips in the batter! I am stirring. I am putting them in the oven,” and so on....)



Praise... *more than criticise*

Children are more likely to repeat behaviours that earn praise.

GENERAL PRAISE **SPECIFIC PRAISE**



"Great job."

"Well done."



"You organized your toys so well."

"What you did was generous and kind."

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EVALUATIVE PRAISE



"I like how clean your room looks."

"I like your persistence."

ENCOURAGING PRAISE



"Your room looks great. You cleaned up all your toys."

"You didn't give up even when it was hard."

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Vocabulary Building Activities

Having a range of vocabulary is important for building language and clear two-way communication.

- Label some things around the house.



- Read out labels of packaging or cooking instructions.



- Pick out words from a bowl and make sentences with those words.



- Blindfold your child, pass him an object and ask him to describe it before guessing what it is.

