



TM

Activities to Build Language

Vocabulary development is the baseline for communication and literacy. The more words you use with your child, the larger his or her vocabulary.

(Hart, B. & Risley, T. (1999). The social world of children learning to talk; Suskind, D. Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain

From words come sentences. As children develop sentences, they begin to ask questions. From questions, come answers and the experience of using language with all its semantics. From learning and understanding, there comes knowledge and from knowledge comes analytical thinking and the foundation for literacy.

Here are some sample activities to build language in your baby or preschooler.

Sample Activities

Make a photo album of family members.

Write the name of each person under his or her photo. Show your child the photo album and cue and say the names of the relatives. Before a visit with a relative, such as a grandparent, show the child the photo album, point to the photo and say and cue the person's name.

Cue while you dress your child.

Let's put on your shirt.

Put your arms in the sleeves.

Now let's put on your pants.

Give me your leg.

Put your leg in the pants.

Let's pull up the pants.

I'll zip your pants.



800.459.3529

www.cuedspeech.org

Use carrier phrases. They are repetitious and every child needs repetition. Carrier phrases also help beginning cuers to fine tune their skills and gain confidence with expressive cueing. Here are examples of carrier phrases:

It's time for your bath.
It's time to get dressed.
It's time to eat.
It's time for breakfast.
It's time for dinner.
It's time for a snack.
It's time for your nap!

Expect expressive language. Don't accept only pointing or gestures when a child is demanding something. Give your child DELETE her the words to express himself. If the child points to a cookie and you know he wants the cookie, then hold the cookie and say "Oh! You want a cookie?" If the child indicates in the affirmative, then say, "You need to ask for it. Say 'Cookie please.'"

Think of your home as a laboratory of learning and use it. Make learning language a game. To build language in the very young deaf child, we begin cueing with these few tools for language development.

Use and expect language and you will get language. Cue all the time and be consistent in your expectations. You will see the rewards in your child.

(Written by Sarina Roffé, 2016)

