

**Using everyday activities and taking the time to give your child your full attention for just 10 – 15 minutes as often as you can is a great way to add lots of vocabulary and make language meaningful. Here are just a few examples:**

**Shopping:** What do you need? Can they find the things on the list? Can they help you pack things away in the right cupboard. Can they find all the fruit?

**Bath time:** Does your child know all of their body parts? Take dollies / toys in the bath and give them instructions of what to wash. Talk about which things might sink or float.

**Sorting washing into the washing machine:** Use this as an opportunity to talk about colours. Can your child find all the black things from the linen basket?

**Brushing teeth:** Use this to work on steps in an activity to help your child think about sequencing. Ask your child, “What do we do next?” after each step in the routine.

**Going for a walk:** Look for things using descriptive words. Who can find something big, small, or rough

**Using simple strategies can also help pre-school children to use even longer sentences. Try to:**

- Follow your child’s lead – join in with them or play alongside, even if they don’t seem to be taking notice of you.
- Try to play the game their way instead of always playing it “properly” It will give you lots more to talk about.
- Talk to them about what they are doing. Listen to what they say and comment on it rather than asking lots of questions. This shows you are really interested and often leads to more conversation.
- Use words and sentences that match theirs, just adding one word to expand – if they only say one word at a time e.g. “car” You say “car driving”. If they say “car driving” you say “Mummy’s driving the car”
- Repeat, repeat, repeat! We need to hear new words at least 10 times to learn them.

**.....and most of all..... HAVE FUN. If you are enjoying the game, your child will always be learning something new. For more ideas and new activities, visit us on social media**

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