

How to...

Help a child to start putting two words together

Once a child is using around 50 single words, which include names of people, objects and simple actions, they are ready to start putting two words together. Here are some ways you can help them to do this:

Model back and expand

- If the child uses one word, repeat this back and add another e.g. if they say “shoes”, you might say “**Mummy’s shoes**” or “**Shoes on**”. Add action words as well as simple describing words such as big/little and basic colours.
- Model two word phrases during play and everyday activities e.g. “**Big teddy**”, “**Teddy’s eating**”, “**Wash hands**”, “**Daddy’s sock**”.

Some words can be used to help a child build lots of two word phrases

- **Bye...** model saying “bye...” when putting toy animals away or play a game with puppets – e.g. “**Bye elephant**”, “**Bye cat**”.
- **More...** model “more...” during play and everyday activities e.g. blow bubbles and then model “**More bubbles?**”, or give a small piece of snack and then model “**More cheese?**”.
- **Gone ...** model “gone” during play and everyday activities e.g. when blowing bubbles, model “bubbles are **gone!**” when they have all popped, or during snack time, model “cheese is **gone!**” when their plate is clean.

Additional information:

For further information please contact Paediatric.services@acecic.nhs.uk or call ACE paediatric services on 01206 588100

Additional resources:

<https://www.talkingpoint.org.uk>

<https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/wellcomm/>

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