



Strategies for Language Development

Resources:



[Infant and Toddler Language Toolkit](#)



[Language Development](#)



[Supports for Language Acquisition](#)



[Social Emotional Development Video](#)

A strategy is a simple, purposeful thing you can do during everyday moments to help your child learn and communicate.

These strategies are:

- Easy to use, with clear language
- Helpful with spoken words, sign language, or both
- Useful for all modes of communication
- Flexible for any family, anytime
- **Start Strong and Connect:** Building a strong bond with your child early helps them grow socially, emotionally, and learn better.
- **Joint Attention:** Share the focus through joint attention. This happens when a caregiver and child focus on the same thing, like looking at each other, then an object. Support it by following your child's lead and joining their interests.
- **Make it Interesting:** Children's videos or books that use fun songs, stories, or pictures to teach words can keep kids interested and engaged. A good example is the [Signing Time](#) series.
- **Repetition:** Using repetition helps your child remember words and understand their meaning, which builds strong language skills over time.
- **Use Big Words:** Use different kinds of words and descriptions. Don't just use simple words—try mixing it up! Your child can learn and grow by seeing or hearing a wide range of vocabulary.
- **Communicate with Purpose and Ease:** Give your child real-world, meaningful language every day. Keep it natural—use your normal voice, daily routines, and everyday moments for genuine connection.
- **Make Communication Fun:** Sing, rhyme, read, and use big, expressive movements to keep your child engaged! Use facial expressions, change up how you say or sign things, and slow it down. This helps your child notice and remember language.
- **Prompt and Pull:** Means setting up moments that invite your child to communicate—giving them a reason to express themselves. Create opportunities that spark their desire to share, ask, or respond.
- **Take Turns:** Back-and-forth interactions build language by teaching kids to listen, respond, and take turns- when your child speaks, respond. When you speak, wait for their return.
- **Expand and Add:** Expanding on your child's communication attempts means meeting the child where they are and adding more.
- **Reading:** Reading with your child from an early age builds lasting literacy skills. Read to, with, and around your child.
- **Share Joy:** Give your child space to explore on their own while enjoying moments of connection together. There's no need to feel like you have to be their constant language teacher. [View Fostering Joy resources.](#)