

PLAY TIME

REAP
WAIKARARAPA

a REAP Wairarapa eResource

No: 2
2020

ORAL LANGUAGE

Talking with Children

We need to talk with our children, not just to them.

Language experiences help to build connections in your child's brain which will help them to speak and understand.

Reading and talking about books, singing songs and saying rhymes are useful ways to engage children to develop their language skills.

Talk to your child all the time, tell them what you are doing and talk about what they are doing. Try not to just give instructions and let them ask questions.

Get your child to tell you stories about their day or a book you are reading together.

Go out for a walk and describe what you are seeing and doing.



By **age 1** children can use single words and communicate with gestures. Know 20+ words

By **age 2** children can ask simple questions and take turns in a conversation. Know 50+

By **age 3** children can make simple sentences and play imaginative games. 200 to 500+ words.

By **age 4** children can ask all sorts of questions. What? Why? Where? 1000+ words

By **age 5** they use complete sentences and take turns in conversations.

A REAP Wairarapa Early Childhood eResource

REAP Wairarapa brings you a series of eResources that can be emailed to you or downloaded from the REAP website. Our staff are endeavouring to make these activities that you can do in your own home with your children.

eResource provided by Jude Mitchell - Early Childhood Team Leader

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A Basic Strategy for Encouraging Language Development

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- AFFIRM what the child has said
- MODEL the correct pattern
- ADD more information

eg	Child says	"Him goed away"	
	Adult says	"Mmm"	Affirm
		"He went away"	Model
		"He's gone to have lunch"	Add
eg	Child says	"Mum du"	
	Adult says	"Yes"	Affirm
		"Mum's shoes"	Model
		"Mum's red shoes"	Add



This style of modelling and expanding is letting the child take the lead.

Adults do not always have to start an exchange. Give the child time to do this.

When talking to your child about what they are doing, try to make 4 comments before you ask a question.

For example when your child is in the sandpit you might say-

"I can see you are digging with a spade",
 "it's a lovely big blue spade",
 "Wow you've dug a very deep hole",
 "I think that would've taken you a long time to dig that hole"
 "How long do you think you think it took you?"

Wait for 10 seconds before prompting again for an answer.

"Do you think it took you 1 minute or 10 minutes?"

Try to apply this when you are reading stories too, put 4 comments in about the story then ask a question. This way you are giving your child words to use and extending their vocabulary.

Idea taken from MoE Early interventions

Ideas to support Oral Language Development

Try not to correct your child's speech but affirm, model and add.

A Helping Hand For Language



Make FOUR comments before you ask ONE question

Count to 10
Before asking
again

