

Before a child can join words together, they need to have at least 50 words that include a range of objects (e.g. ball, cup, dog), action words (e.g. sleep, eat, drink) and describing or concept words (e.g. big, dirty, fast, more, in, on, under).



Language support at home in the early years can positively impact on your child's future opportunities.

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## TOP TIPS

- **Have special time** with your child each day to play, read books and sing songs
- **Follow** your child's lead in play
- **Use gesture and signing** alongside your talking
- **Name what your child points to**
- Always give a **response** when your child tries to communicate
- Repeat back what your child says and **add a word**, for example they say 'car' you say 'big car', 'fast car'
- **Reduce questions**; instead **comment** on the activity
- **Simplify your own language** using short phrases
- **Repeat new words** in different situations
- **Model language** as part of everyday routine

# More information

**STOP**

**what you are doing so you can focus on your child**

**LOOK**

**and listen to what your child is doing and saying**

**RESPOND**

**by commenting and repeating using 1-2 words**

## Creating opportunities for communication:

- Give choices e.g. 'train or bricks?'
- Try not to anticipate your child's needs before they have the chance to ask.
- Friendly sabotage e.g. put biscuits out of reach, give a yoghurt without a spoon, put clothes on the wrong body parts.

Parents and carers are the most important people for supporting language development. Children learn language through their everyday experiences and play, but they also need to be given opportunities to communicate.

