



North Shore, Sea to Sky,
Sunshine Coast, Powell River,
Richmond and Vancouver

Vancouver Coastal Health
Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.

Starting to Use Words

Your child...

- uses many single words
- puts two words together
- sometimes puts three words together

You can help...

- Build on what your child says, for example:
Child: "Puppy run"
Adult: "Yes the puppy is running fast."
Child: "Car"
Adult: "Daddy's car."
- Ask questions that are open-ended or that give a choice. Avoid yes/no questions. Give a choice such as "What do you want to drink?" rather than asking "Do you want milk?"
- Use new words when your child can learn the meaning from the experience. "Help me wash the carrots."



- Include action words (run, climb, kick, read) as well as describing words (hot, orange, funny, pretty, fast, loud, heavy)

- Encourage your child to say words when using gestures. For example, when your child is pointing to the cracker say, "Tell me what you want."
- Take turns talking. Pay attention to the things your child wants to talk about. The longer you talk together, the better it is for your child.
- Set up situations where your child needs to use words. For example:
 - Give your child a bowl of cereal without a spoon.
 - Give your child only one shoe.
 - Give your child a toothbrush with no toothpaste.
 - Pretend not to hear the doorbell ring.
 - Read a book upside down.
 - Put the doll's shoe on its hand.

Other fact sheets on parenting your toddler are available at your local Community Health Office/Centre or online at <http://vch.eduhealth.ca>

For more information, contact a Speech Language Pathologist or Public Health Nurse at Vancouver Coastal Health

www.vch.ca

For more copies, go online at <http://vch.eduhealth.ca> or email phe@vch.ca and quote Catalogue No. **GK.600.S73**
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