

ENCOURAGING YOUR CHILD TO PUT TWO WORDS TOGETHER

Ways to teach your child to say two words utterances:

- ❖ ‘Feeding in’ two-word combinations
 - Talk about your own actions or your child’s actions using two words (eg. “open door”, “pour milk”, “light on”, “cuddle teddy”, “eat apple”).
- ❖ Expand on single words your child uses
 - Each time your child uses one word, you model the two word combination so that they can hear how to put the two words together. (“repeat + add one” rule)
 - eg. Child – “car”
Adult – “mummy’s car”
 - eg. Child – “more”
Adult – “more juice”
- ❖ Encourage your child to copy two words by repeating and giving choices
 - When you are interacting with your child repeat the two word combination a number of times during the activity. Praise any effort at imitation of part or all of the phrase.
 - If you want to encourage your child to directly copy the two word combination then give them a choice (eg. “block on” or “block off?”; “more cake” or “more drink”).
- ❖ At least one of the words in the two word phrase that you are trying to teach your child needs to be one that they know and use. This way you are increasing the chance of your child repeating the phrase.



Examples of two-word combinations you can encourage:

'MORE' + ANOTHER WORD

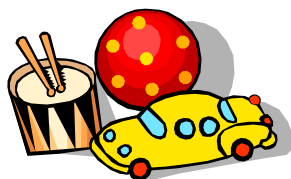
Meal time – give a small amount of food or drink and then say eg. "more drink?" and then wait, encouraging your child to use the two words to ask for more food or drink.

Bath time – put a small amount of water in the bath and say “more water?” and then wait, encouraging your child to use the two words to ask for more water.

Book – read a few pages of a book to your child. Say “more book” and then wait, encouraging your child to use the two words before you turn the next page.

Bubbles – blow bubbles and after they burst, model “more bubbles”

Tea party – set up a tea party with teddy and dolly. Model “more drink” when pouring the tea for your child and teddy. When it’s your child’s turn, model the phrase as they complete the action.



‘gone’ + another word

Mealtime – as your child finishes eating or drinking say eg. “drink’s gone”, “biccys gone”.

When people leave – model two words eg. “nanna’s gone”, “daddy’s gone”.

Playtime – as you pack away say eg. “blocks gone”, “ball gone”, “teddy’s gone”.

Bubbles – when the bubbles pop, model “bubbles gone”

ACTION WORD (eg. eat, drink, sleep, run) + ANOTHER WORD

Ball Play – as your child plays with ball or as you play with the ball, model the two words eg. “kick ball”, “throw ball”. Give a choice to encourage your child to tell you what to do with the ball eg. “kick ball” or “throw ball?”

Doll Play – as your child washes and dries a doll say various two word combinations eg. “wash tummy”, “dry feet”. In a tea party, say other two word combinations eg. “dolly eat”, “give drink”, “teddy drink”.



LOCATION WORD (eg. in, on, under, behind, up) + ANOTHER WORD

Blocks and cars – as your child plays with blocks and cars use two word combinations eg. “blocks up”, “blocks down”, “blocks in”, “car under”.

Dressing – as you help your child to dress and undress use different two word combinations eg. “foot in”, “socks off”, “arm up”.

Packing away – as your child packs away his/her toys say different two word combinations eg. “blocks in”, “on table”, “in cupboard”, “dolly in”.

Playground – when playing on the slide model “up ladder” or “(name) up” and “down slide”.

Stairs – make a game of repetitive going up and down the stairs.

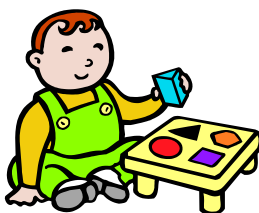
Balloon throwing – throw the balloon up and say “balloon up” and “balloon down”

DESCRIBING WORD (eg. yucky, dirty, big, little, pretty) + ANOTHER WORD

Meal time – use two word combinations to describe foods and drinks at meal times eg. ‘ “that’s yucky”, “soup hot”, “juice cold”.

Bath time – as you help your child to wash use two word combinations eg. “dirty feet”, “clean hands”, “cold water”.

Dress-ups – use two word combinations to describe different clothes eg. “pretty hat”, “big shoes”.



Remember it takes time for children to start putting words together. You may need to be ‘feeding in’ these two word combinations for a while before your child starts to say them. Be persistent and consistent. Keep up the specific modelling in language learning sessions, as well as everyday activities. By doing this, you will be giving your child many opportunities to extend their language.

Once your child is using two word utterances consistently, you can begin modelling 3 word utterances. Do this in the same way you encouraged your child to use 2 words together by:

- ❖ modelling 3 word utterances for them to hear
- ❖ repeating 3 word utterances frequently within activities
- ❖ expanding on what they say

Examples:

- **Meal time** - want more water, this icecream cold
- **Play time** - see truck go, big blue ball, in the box, a green train
- **Bath time** – water all gone, take dress off
- **Dressing** – my red shoes, those dirty socks

