



Encourage your child to express opinions during conversations. As you do your chores, ask your child to follow you from room to room. Talk together about what you like to do in each room.

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Make specific facial expressions and ask your child to tell you the feeling shown on your face. Talk about what makes you feel happy, sad, angry, excited, or afraid.

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Help your child convey information in a logical order when speaking. Before dressing, talk about the clothes she is going to wear. Ask her what she is going to put on *first*, *next*, and *last*. When baking, talk about how you are going to follow a recipe—what you will do *first*, *next*, and *last*.

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Help your child answer questions about time. Ask him questions about commonly occurring events. *When do you put on your socks? When do we sleep? When do you go to preschool?*



Help your child use words to describe a sequence of events. Talk about what will happen *first*, *next*, and *last*. *First we will go to the supermarket. Next we will go to the post office. And last, we will go to the park.*

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Help your child use new words in conversation. Take a trip to the post office and talk about what you will see and do when you arrive. Role play the conversation you will have with the postal worker to buy stamps, send, or pick up a package.

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Point out how we talk differently in different places. Talk about using inside voices at home, at the library, or in the preschool classroom and outside voices in the park or yard.

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Role play greetings you use with different people. Show the difference between talking to an authority figure (using *Mr.* or *Ms.*) and talking to a playmate (using *first name*).



Ask thought-provoking questions as your child plays with toys to encourage the use of four to five-word sentences with a lot of detail. *What would you do if you didn't have any toys? How would you create a new toy? How is your toy hammer like your dad's real hammer?*

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Build a story together. You start and have your child add the next sentence.

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Talk about what you are doing and ask questions. When you are outside watering the plants, ask *Why do we water the plants? What would happen if we forgot to water them? How do I know it is time to water the plants?*

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Ask questions to help your child use future tense in sentences. *What are you going to be when you grow up? How do you want to celebrate your next birthday? Where would you like to go this weekend?*



Ask cause and effect questions. *What do you think would happen if...? What would happen if there were no grocery carts? What would you do if you didn't have enough money to buy all the groceries?*

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Develop the use of present, past, and future tense in sentences. Ask your child questions about what he ate yesterday, what snack he is eating in the grocery cart, and about what he will eat for each meal tomorrow.

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Engage in conversation about different ways to prepare food you are buying. Talk about *baking*, *broiling*, *frying*, *grilling*, *toasting*, *blending*, *mixing*. Talk about the food and utensils you'll need and the steps you will follow.

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Discuss manners when you are eating. Talk about how you can eat some foods with a fork or spoon and others with your fingers.