



Adding New Words

Now that your child is using words, you can help him or her to say more and more words. Here are some ways to help:

- **Talk about the things around you.** Talk about what your child is doing, what you are doing, and what is happening around you.
- **Use action words.** Use the words for actions such as sitting, jumping, eating, drinking, looking, listening, and running to talk about what is happening. You can do this while you are playing and looking at a book.
- **Use words that describe things.** Use words for how your child is feeling, like happy, sad, and tired. Use words that describe how things look, such as pretty, nice, and shiny. Use words that tell how something feels, like hot, cold, and scratchy. Use words that tell about size, such as big, small, and tiny.
- **Read to your child.** Books are a great way to use a variety of words with your child. The story and the pictures help your child to figure out what new words mean. When you read a book more than once, you help them to understand more and more words, as well as helping them to figure out more of the story.
- **Out and About.** When you are out and about in your community, talk about the things around you. At the grocery store, talk about the different foods, the scale, recipes, coupons, etc.. If you talk about the outing before and after, this helps your child to remember the new words he/she has heard.
- **Make something together.** Make cookies, a picture, a craft, or build with toys. You can talk about what it will look like, use action words and describing words, and talk about what your “plan” is for the “project” (what you want it to look like and what you will do with it once it is finished).
- **Little Helper.** Let your child help you around the house. For older preschool children, give them a “chore” to do (give the cat her food dish, put toys in box, etc.).
- **Be specific.** Use the actual words for objects, actions, and how objects look and feel. Think about the names for specific flowers, for example and use them with your child.