



## Comments and Questions: Do's and Don'ts

As parents, sometimes we ask our child too many questions. Communication is more than just question and answers. Be sure you are making comments too!

 <b>Do: Make comments</b>	 <b>Don't: Ask too many questions</b>
<p>Here some ways to help you ask less questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instead of asking “what’s that?”, label it: “it’s a... ball, duck, plane”, etc.</li> <li>• If you ask a question (“Do you want more juice?”), balance it with a comment (“Do you want more juice.... mmm, juice is delicious”)</li> <li>• Limit Yes/No questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Instead of asking “Do you want a snack?”, try “It’s snack time”</li> <li>– Give your child a choice: instead of asking “Do you want water?” give two choices: “Do you want water or milk?”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>If you don't get a response, it could be because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The question was too hard for the child</li> <li>• Your child isn't interested/didn't have enough time to answer</li> <li>• It wasn't a “genuine” question (where you are truly interested in knowing the answer)</li> <li>• It is a question asked to “test” or “show off” what your child already knows.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Take off the pressure</b></p>	<p><b>Don't say “say”</b></p>
<p>When you model, just say the word and wait expectedly. If a child does not fill it in, it's ok!</p>	<p>Talking can be hard for many kids, don't make it harder by putting a lot of pressure on them to talk. Kids can repeat words they don't understand.</p> <p>Avoid saying “say dog”.</p>
<p><b>Expand</b></p>	<p><b>Get stuck labeling!</b></p>
<p>Add words to what your child says:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If they use a gesture, add a word that they could have used (all done, help, open, etc.).</li> <li>• If they say 1 word like “truck”, add another word like “go truck”, “blue truck”, or “I love trucks!”</li> </ul>	<p>Once children start using single words on their own (not just imitated) we want to show how to make sentences. Don't get stuck labelling, use verbs and 2-word combinations. Always be one step ahead!</p>