

COMET BAY TODDLER TALK



Today's top tip is taken from

Toddler talking: what to expect

In the toddler years, your child's language starts to explode, as your child moves from using single words to putting together simple sentences. Your child is also starting to understand and follow simple requests, like 'Bring me your book' or 'Wave bye-bye'.

But toddlers often don't have the words to express big emotions or talk about complex experiences. With your help, your child will start learning how to use words to communicate better.

Helping toddlers learn to talk and communicate

You don't need to 'teach' your toddler to talk. He'll learn through **everyday interactions**, especially with you.

When you're with your child, it's all about **tuning in and noticing what your child is interested in**. Then you can make a comment or ask a question, and give your child time to respond. For example, if your toddler points to a beetle in the garden, you could say, 'Look at the little green beetle. I wonder what it's doing'. Then wait and see how your child responds.

When you share moments like these with your child, it's important to **give your child time to find words** for her ideas. This is about waiting to hear what your child says, rather than trying to put words into her mouth.

And when your child responds, it's important to **show you're really listening**. You can do this by making lots of eye contact and saying things like 'You think the beetle is going for a walk? Yes, there it goes!' When you do this, you send the message that what your child is saying is important to you.

Simple and meaningful interactions like these encourage your child to talk more and use more words. They also help your child learn about the pattern of conversations.