Keep It Simple and Repetitive

Keep language simple to support your child's understanding

- Aim to be **one-two levels above** your child
- If your child is not yet speaking, aim to speak in **phrases with 1-2 key words**
- If your child is speaking in single words, aim to speak in **phrases with 2-3 key words**

Repeat, Repeat, Repeat!

- Say the words often and in **many contexts** so that their meaning becomes clearer for your child.
- Keep the **accurate grammar** as you model language, however place **emphasis on the main/key words** that you are modelling.
- It may help to have a **core vocabulary of words** that you model often. **More, open, go, again** and **finished** are commonly used in many contexts.

How does this apply to my interactions with my child?

Child: *not saying anything while pushing a toy car*
Adult: 'push-push' (as you model/show the action) or **'up-up-up'**

Child: 'apple'
Adult: 'eating the apple'

Child: 'plane'
Adult: 'yes, the plane is **flying**'

Child: 'dog walking'
Adult: 'yes, the dog is walking **quickly'** or 'yes the **big** dog is walking'

In what daily routines could you try to comment rather than question?

Example
Bath time: Repeatedly model some **actions** e.g. washing, splashing, pouring **or** focus on teaching one-two **body parts** each bath time. Alternatively have **animals/toy foods** in the bath that you put in the water...you could even have them in a closed container to begin with to see if your child will ask you to 'open' it.

When will you try it?

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