

Increasing phrase and sentence lengths

- When describing pictures or discussing events, start by having your child name the items with the appropriate vocabulary word
- When combining words, start with these suggestions: combine a noun + a verb (boy eating), color + noun (red apple), combine noun with 'please' (cookie please), verb + noun (up Mommy), 'my' + object (my car)
- Once your child has several 2 word phrases, attempt to add another word ("more cookies please"- "boy eating cookie")
Model and encourage use of articles (a, an, the) and 'ing' verbs
(The boy is eating.)
- As your child uses spontaneous utterances, model a corrected or enhanced version if needed (child - "cookie"; parent - "OK, you want a cookie"; child - "bird"; parent - "Yes, I see a bird.") When providing a model, typically add about 1-3 words to your child's utterance so he/she can see the enhanced version but not be overwhelmed by too much language.
- As your child's language improves, encourage the correct use of pronouns (he, she, they). Once again, if your child uses an incorrect pronoun, model the corrected version. (child - "Her my friend."; parent - "Oh, she is your friend?") Emphasize the corrected word by saying it a little louder than the rest of the words in the sentence.
- As your child's language improves, you can increase the level of difficulty by encouraging the use of descriptive language. (child - "I see a car."; parent - "Yes, I see that fast, red car.")