

Developing language - Expanding

From around 15 months onwards, you might start noticing your child using more words and putting some of these words together to make short sentences.

It is at this stage, implementing the advice and strategies below, will help your child's language continue to grow.

What do I need to do?

- Expansion (adding 1-2 words) is an easy tool to **help develop your child's language skills**.
- When your child says a word or phrase, listen carefully and **expand on what they talk about, by adding 1-2 words**.

If your child says, "**dog!**" you say, "**yes, big dog!**"
If your child says, "**cow moo**" you say, "**cow goes moo!**"

- It is best to use this technique when your **child is really engaged** – during an **activity together** or **mealtimes**.
- If they are **confident saying one word** at a time, you can **repeat a 2- word phrase** back to them: "eating lunch", "more milk", "green clothes".
- If they are talking in **simple phrases**, you can start narrating in **fuller sentences**: "That's a blue car", "we're hanging up the washing".



For further ideas check out the videos below.



www.gov.wales/talkwithme

How?

Listen to the words or gestures they use to communicate with you and expand on what they talk about, by adding 1-2 words.

Activities

- **Doing the laundry together** – is a great opportunity to talk about different clothes.
- **Try setting up a small shop** in your living room or kitchen and ask your toddler to find you items.
- **Everyday tasks like cooking** can be a great chance to talk to your baby about different things.
- Boost your child's chat by **taking time to name things** while you are out and about.

Moving forward...

When you feel you are confident with this strategy, next, try **introducing verbs (action words)**. Use opportunities as they arise – going for a walk, playing with toys or at meal times. **Walk, jump, clap, wave** and **drink** are great everyday examples.