Language Priority

Put language at the top of your list of things to do with your child.

Language Priority can turn an ordinary event into a chance for learning.

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Let's get started
ACTIVITY 1

Talk face-to-face to your baby.

She will hear you voice and see your lips move.

ACTIVITY 2

All the little sounds your child makes will later turn into language.

Copy some of her baby sounds back to her!
ACTIVITY 3

Use rich, interesting language with children of every age, do not wait until children are “old enough” – they already are.

Your idea is intriguing.

The towel has a soft texture.

ACTIVITY 4

Show what words mean.

Under.

Around.

Through.
ACTIVITY 5

Give him words for how he’s feeling.

I think that loud noise made you feel a little scared.

ACTIVITY 6

Use numbers when you talk and when you play.

How many wheels does it have?

1, 2, 3, 4!
Use the 3N Strategy

The 3N strategy can be used in almost any part of the day:

- Waiting for the bus
- Clearing off the table
- Walking outside.
**ACTIVITY 7**

Tell your child that you notice what she is doing.

I notice you found daddy’s beard!

**ACTIVITY 8**

Use numbers when you talk and when you play.

I notice you’re looking at the green stem.
ACTIVITY 9

Do something with the toys that he is already playing with. You will be adding something to the child’s play.

NUDGE
ACTIVITY 10

Ask a question. The child does not need to answer in words.

Can you Hi-Five? Great. And I bet you can...

ACTIVITY 11

After you nudge, pause again to see what will happen.
ACTIVITY 12

Describe what the child does.

NARRATE

You’re bouncing on Mum’s tummy.

Pause … and then describe some more.
ACTIVITY 13

You will be telling “the story” of what is happening.

ACTIVITY 14

Try to have longer back and forth conversations with older children.

Make sure there are several turns for each speaker.
ACTIVITY 15

Use all three N’s

Notice: I notice you’d like to zip your own coat today.

Nudge: Can you zip with one hand and hold your coat with the other?

Narrate: You’re making that zipper go up, up. Nice work!

ACTIVITY 16

The language you use can tell your child about...

- **Feelings**
  “I’m tired and would like to be quiet for a while.”

- **Relationships**
  Aunt, uncle, cousin.

- **Rules**
  “Just one cookie.”

- **Time**
  “We’ll go after lunch.”

- **Features**
  Color, size, shape, texture, taste.

- **Comparisons**
  “That one is taller.”

Use language to give your child many kinds of information.
Ask yourself: Am I doing these things?

I emphasise language in every event of the day

I use language that expresses warmth and positive feeling

I use the 3N Strategy

To inquire about additional copies of the publication, contact: 3a-info@unimelb.edu.au
Credits

Activity 2  Photo courtesy of Healthy Child Manitoba

Activity 3  Photo courtesy of Healthy Child Manitoba


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