



## Tips for Supporting Language Development at Home

How you can support your child's language development in everyday life

### Make eye contact

Language is interaction. Make sure your child is attentive and be attentive yourself.

- Get down to your child's eye level. If needed, hold objects your child wants close to your face so the distance for eye contact is shorter.
- Avoid looking at phones or smartwatches during shared moments. Even brief glances can interrupt attention. Turn off distracting devices such as the television.

### Discover the world together

Children learn language by doing. Through play, they can explore and understand the world with all their senses.

- Play together with your child. Give them space to try things on their own and offer help when something is too difficult to manage alone.
- Be a role model and show your child what can be done with the things around you. Talk together about your experiences and share them with others.
- Do not "park" your child in front of a tablet, phone, or television. Valuable learning time is lost this way.

### Be a language role model

Language is not a question-and-answer game, it is an exchange about experiences and feelings. Be a language role model for your child so they learn how to use language in the right way.

- Speak in short, clear sentences. Focus on the most important information so it is easier for your child to understand you.
- Repeat your child's incorrect statements in the correct form. This helps them learn the right way to say it.
- Avoid "quizzing" your child. Ask only relevant questions that cannot be answered with YES or NO. If your child is not yet able to answer very open questions, offer choices instead, for example: *apple* or *banana*?
- Do not comment on every single action, you would not do that with other people either. Instead, briefly say what you are about to do and talk afterwards about what you have done.
- **Do not pressure your child to speak!** Children will use language naturally when they recognize the need for it and are able to do so.



This information **cannot** replace speech and language therapy!  
If you are concerned about your child's language development, please contact our doctors.