

## Advice to Promote Early Language Development

### Ready steady Go games

Use bubbles or another toy/item that your child enjoys. Start by saying “Ready steady...” and then say “go” when you roll the toy. Say “Ready steady go” when your child is rolling the toy to you. After several turns, leave a gap before you say “go” and see if your child will say “go”. E.g. “Ready...steady.....”. If they don’t fill in the gap, you say “go!”.

### Single words- repeat over and over again

“More” – model this word whenever possible e.g.

- give your child less juice/snack than usual so that you can offer them “more” after they have finished – “more?”
- Play with bubbles and offer “more” after each turn – “more?”. You could also say “pop” each time you pop a bubble.

“Gone” – model this word whenever possible e.g.

- when your child finishes their juice/snack, you can look at the empty cup/plate and say “gone”
- when all the toys are packed away you can say “gone”.

Naming - Try to talk about the things your child is seeing e.g.

- name body parts as they are washed in the bath
- name objects as you point to them in a book
- name clothes during dressing/undressing of your child or teddy/doll.
- name toys as your child plays with them and name the actions they make the toys do e.g. “car”, “driving”, “driving car”.

### Visuals

Introduce objects or pictures to help prepare your child for activities that will be happening next. For example, when it is time for a bath you might show them a particular toy that they always have in the bath, e.g. a rubber duck. When you go and see ‘Grandma’ show you child a picture of Grandma. Be consistent in showing the same object/picture to match that event.

### Creating opportunities

Create opportunities for your child that encourage them to communicate with you. For example at snack time give him/her a choice: hold out two objects in front of her and say, for example, ‘would you like the banana or the grapes’ (or a food she would normally eat) letting her choose. Try to do this with the objects out of your child’s reach so that they to use gesture or words to request them. Also you might try putting one of their preferred toys or foods slightly out of reach so they have to request for it.