



Help Your Preschooler's Language Grow

Comments work better than questions.

- A comment gives information. It tells children something. For example: "Uh-oh, blocks fell down."

Comments also:

- help a child learn new words
- connect words with things, feelings and what happens
- put less pressure on the child than questions
- help and encourage a child to talk with you



How to use comments well:

- Talk about what the child is doing.
- Talk about what you are doing.
- Talk about things as they happen.
- Add new ideas and words to what the child has said.
- Give enough time between comments for the child to listen and answer.
- Talk on the same level as your child.

Turn questions into comments:

- Instead of saying "What's that?" say "I hear a fire truck".
- Instead of saying, "What colour is that?" say "I see a blue truck."

Questions can be useful if they have more than one answer:

- Ask "open-ended" questions, such as "What do you think will happen next?"
- Give choices, such as "Do you want to look at a book or play with the blocks?"
- Turn a question into a comment, using "I". For example: "I wonder what's in the box."



Other fact sheets on parenting your child are available at your local Community Health Office/Centre or online at <http://vch.eduhealth.ca>

For more information, contact a Speech Language Pathologist or Public Health Nurse at Vancouver Coastal Health www.vch.ca

For more copies, go online at <http://vch.eduhealth.ca> or email phem@vch.ca and quote Catalogue No. GK.600.H45

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