Help Your Preschooler’s Language Grow

Comments work better than questions.
• A comment gives information. It tells children something. For example: “Uh-oh, the 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 at 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

© Vancouver Coastal Health, November 2016

The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.
www.vch.ca