



# Developing Your Toddler's Speech

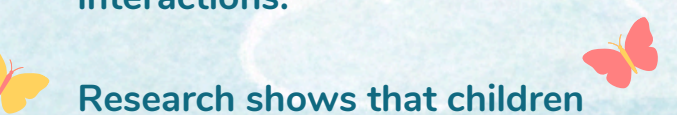
- Is your toddler starting preschool?
- Are you curious about your child's language development?
- Are you looking for ways to support your child through this exciting new chapter?

Read on to learn about the *social* aspects of language, how children learn about social language, and how *you* can help your child blossom into a little social butterfly!




# Social Communication

Pragmatics is the study of how language is used to communicate. It plays an important role in building relationships with others. It is crucial for academic success, for group work and peer interactions.



Research shows that children learn words better when they're socially interacting, rather than independently (like during screen time). Support your child's development by talking and learning with them!



# Communicating with Peers vs Adults

Children communicate differently with their peers than with adults!

Here's how:

- When children interact with adults, adults support the conversational participation with the child.
- When children interact with peers, they are unaided which allows them to use their own thoughts and past conversational practice to develop their language skills.



# Communicating with Peers vs Adults cont.

Did you know? 

- Children expect adults to be better conversationalists and are more likely to share joint attention. Joint attention is when the child and the adult are focused on the same thing, and the child can take advantage of the adult's eye gaze and expressions to learn.
- By the age of 3, young children are already organizing social interactions by taking turns, although research shows that turn-taking gaps are longer with peers than with adults.

# Tips and Tricks

- Routines help facilitate conversation. Try establishing routines such as saying "good morning" and "good night" every day. You can also practice greetings with family members over FaceTime or phone calls.
- Try creating characters and scenes with others in pretend or symbolic play which requires joint attention, collaboration, turn-taking, problem solving, and more!
- Try prompting play scenarios that incorporate specific social roles or conventions, like playing "restaurant" with servers and customers, or "house" with parents and siblings.

# Caregivers' Roles In Communication

- Early interactions with caregivers help motivate and shape the child's abilities to engage in conversation and understand social cues.
- School environments give children the opportunity to observe and practice language through guided learning from teachers.
- Caregivers play a vital role in fostering language skills by modeling effective communication and encouraging meaningful interactions in everyday contexts. In other words, talk with your kids!

