

Comments and Questions

We often use lots of questions with young children. This works well with children who have lots of language, but when children are still learning, they can get stuck, and not answer at all!
Using comments instead takes the pressure off, and gives a good model for children to copy when they are ready.

Questions

Can be hard to understand and respond to

- e.g. what did you do today?

Try to use more comments than questions.

This is mainly about avoiding asking questions you already know the answer to, as this isn't always meaningful communication.

It's fine to ask questions that you need the answer to!!

Comments

Children start to understand words by hearing them used over and over again.

- ✚ Talk about things that you can both see.
- ✚ Use simple language to describe everyday things that you're doing.
- ✚ Turn questions into comments e.g. rather than asking 'what is it', say 'look, a teddy bear.'
- ✚ Add in more words when they are ready e.g. start by saying 'it's a dog' before expanding to say 'it's a big dog'.

Your child will then start to pick up new words to use themselves.

Try the five finger rule!!

- ✚ For every question, try to use four comments.

