Get on Child's Level



Position yourself at eye level with the child, touch their arm or say their name so they know you're ready to be part of the conversation.

Imitate



Imitate a child's sounds, facial expressions, or gestures.

Take Turns



Join the child at her favourite activity.

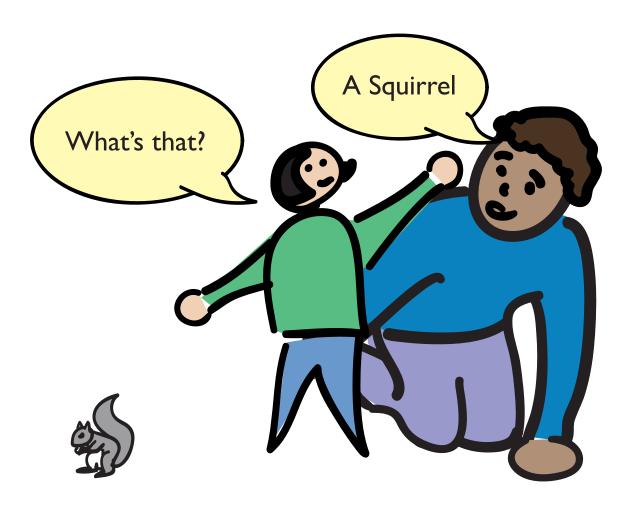
After the child's turn,
say "my turn" and imitate
the child's action.

Describe



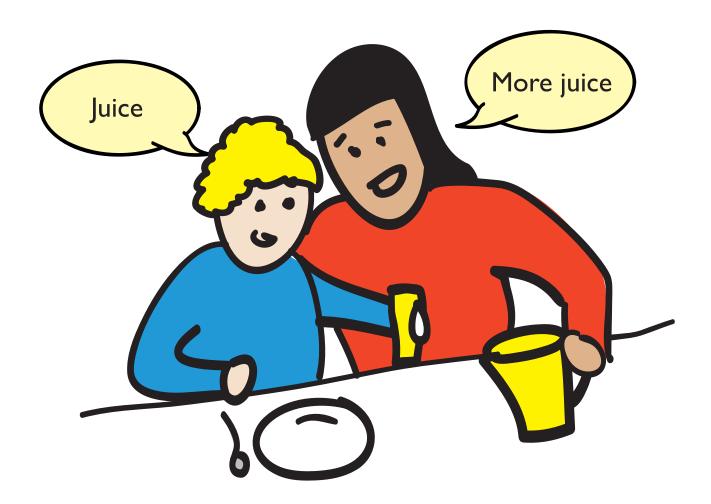
Use short simple phrases to describe your actions and the child's actions.

Listen and Respond



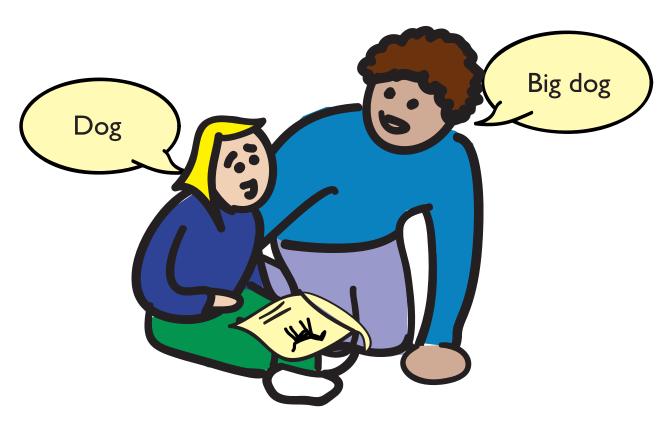
Listen and respond to each child's words or gestures as much as possible.

Expand



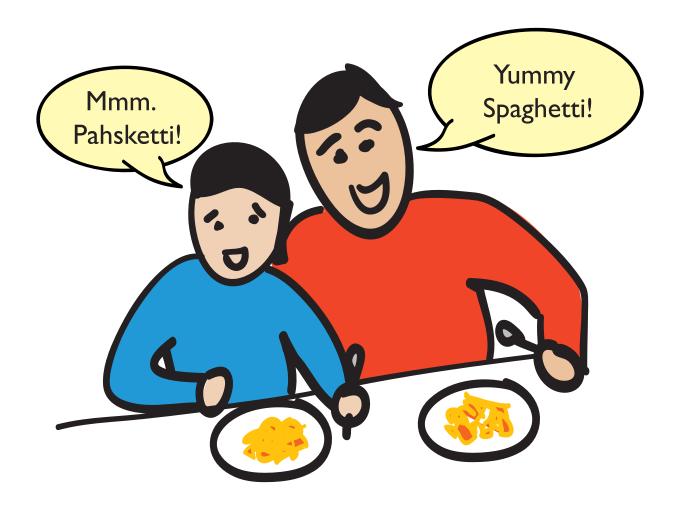
Listen to what a child says and repeat it back, adding a word or a phrase to expand the child's message.

Use Descriptive Statements



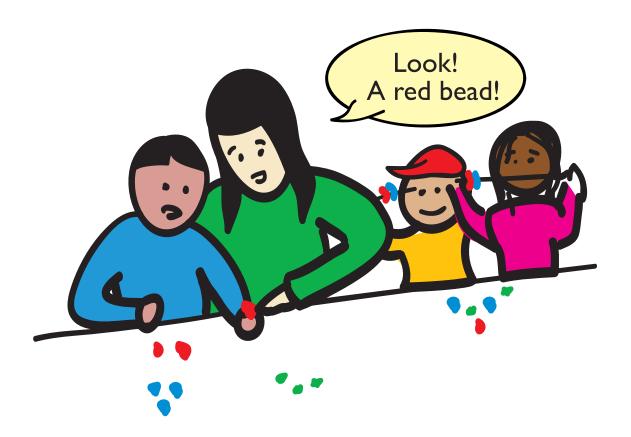
Provide descriptions of objects and actions to increase a child's vocabulary.

Model



Listen to what a child says and repeat it back, using correct pronunciation and grammar.

Follow



Follow the child's lead and talk about things of interest to the child.

Simplify



Reduce the length of sentences when giving directions.

Wait



Give directions once and then wait.

Waiting gives the child time to process what you have said.

Use Visuals



Support children's comprehension through use of objects, pictures and gestures.

Offer choices



Choice making provides opportunities for learning names of objects and the value of expressing one's wishes.