

Slow down and stop

Slowing down your pace when speaking is a helpful tip to keep in mind. When asking your child a question, count to 5 in your head before repeating yourself. This gives him the chance to organize his response.

Eye contact is best

Take the time to look at your child when he's speaking to you. Vice versa, ask that he look at you or gently lift his chin to look at you when you are speaking with him.

Know your child's interests

Take the time to observe your child. Notice what makes him react or what captivates him, and comment on or initiate an interaction and response to that topic. Talk to him about what he's interested in!

A few tips to stimulate language

Reformulate without repeating

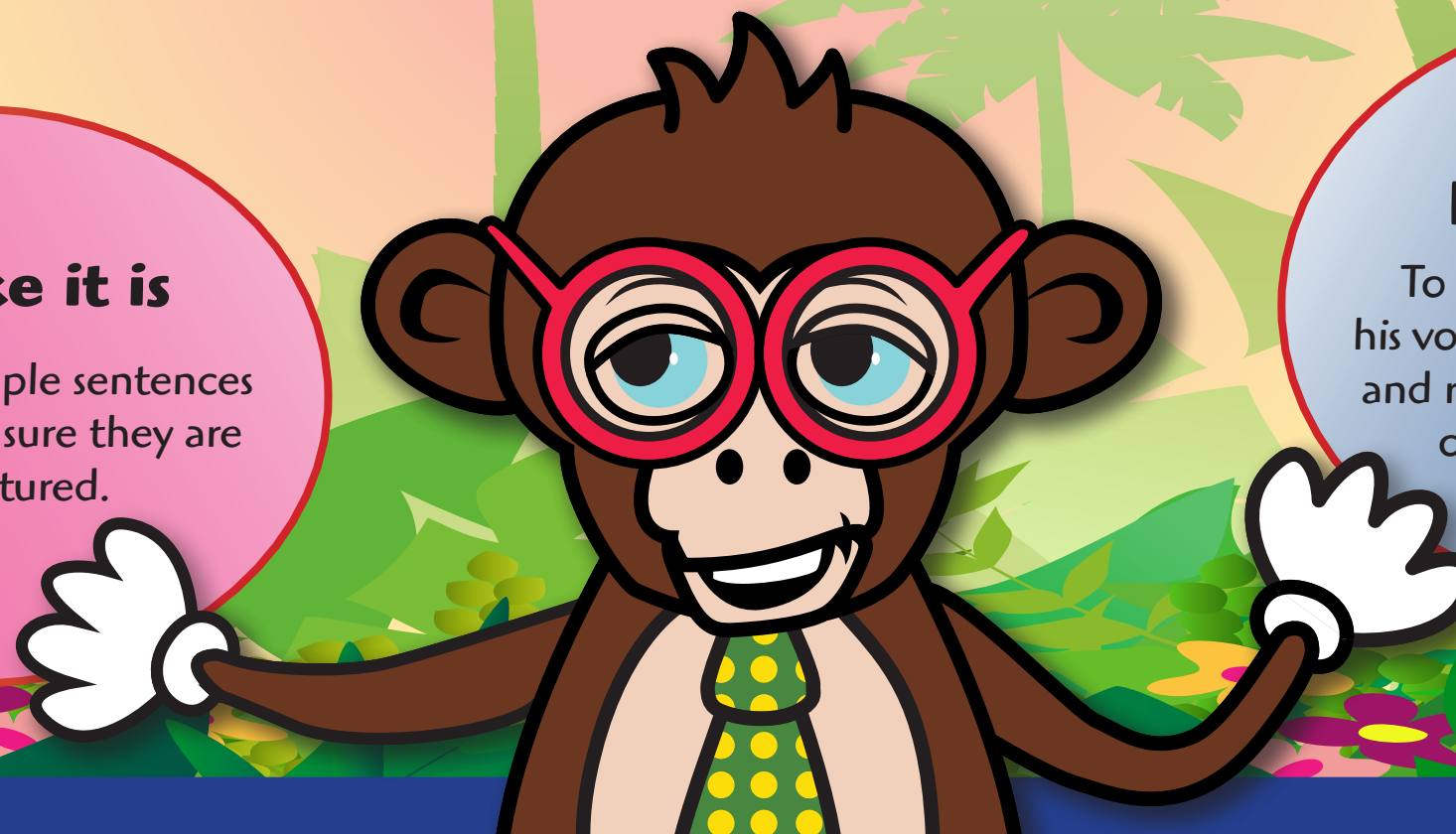
Reformulate what your child is saying, without giving off the impression that you are correcting him. Simply offer the right structure.

Say it like it is

Use short and simple sentences but always make sure they are well-structured.

Use precise words

To help your child develop his vocabulary, use precise terms and repeat them whenever the occasion presents itself.



Mr. Potato Head

Mr. Potato Head is a classic game. It helps stimulate the vocabulary of the human body in a playful way, while working on simple requests. For example, present an item from Mr. Potato Head and ask your child if he wants it. If he seems interested in it, invite him to say "give", followed by a gesture.

Games and activities for your little ones



Make the rounds with toys

Don't bombard your child with too many toys at his disposal, especially if he tends to quickly go from one game to the next. Put away a portion of his toys, and rotate his toys on a weekly basis.

Lotto game, bits and pieces game

Simple board games (such as lotto or memory games) or games where you have to place pieces (*Pictolino*, *Colorino*) offer opportunities to work on vocabulary while developing the notion of taking the turns.

Songs and gestures...to interrupt

Add gestures to songs. These gestures allow children who are less talkative to be more "active" while singing and to show them that they know the song, even if they cannot say the words. Once the song becomes familiar to your child, interrupt the song and look at your child. Let him know, by your expression, that you're waiting for him to continue the song.

Silly hide and seek

To work on following instructions and exploring space in a playful way, hide fun objects in silly areas. Then start your hunt for the "hidden banana" by exploring the house with your child. Reverse roles and then have your child hide something that a sibling or other family member must find.

Art & crafts and language

Arts & crafts and drawing offer excellent opportunities to stimulate action verbs ("I AM glueing", "I AM cutting out") and pronouns such as "I" and "you". Don't hesitate to support your sentence with gestures (for example, pointing to yourself when you say "I").

Blocks and choices

To stimulate colours, go through different blocks with your child. Hide the blocks behind your back and show him two blocks at a time. Offer him the choice: "Blue or red?" Stimulate the production of onomatopoeia and use of space at the same time. For example, say "Boom" or "Fell down" every time a tower of blocks collapses.