

Offering Choices

Offering choices is a great way to encourage your child to talk. Not only is this a natural way of getting your child to imitate your speech, it also highlights to your child that you don't always know what they are thinking.

Tips

- ◆ Rather than giving your child what you *know* they want offer them a choice (e.g. 'milk or juice?')
- ◆ Avoid asking yes/no questions
- ◆ Show your child the real objects so that they understand that you are giving them a choice
- ◆ If your child points rather than using the word to communicate, say the word for them (e.g. 'Oh, juice. You want the juice. Here's the juice. Open the juice. Yummy juice'). Remember the more times you are able to repeat the key-word in a natural way, the quicker your child will learn it.



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Key-word Signs

Using signs aids understanding by giving your child a visual cue. Remember to get your child's attention before you speak to them.

- Always say the word you are signing
- Only sign key-words
- Use signs all the time



YOU - Point dominant index finger forward or toward person concerned.



TO CHOOSE - Extend dominant index finger and thumb. Close index finger onto thumb while moving hand towards body.
N.B. Some states use two hands or use this action from extended non-dominant hand index finger and middle fingers.



WHICH? - Extend dominant thumb and little finger, palm down and move formation from side to side, twice.



TO WANT - Move heel of open dominant hand down front of chest and turn to palm down.

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