

Check out the YouTube video
'Helping my child to talk: Pitch it at the right level'
(scan QR code)



6. Pitch it at the right level

- Talking at a level of difficulty that is right for your child helps them to understand your words more easily. It also helps them to learn & use more words.
- Adults using long sentences, tricky questions and complicated words can lead to confusion & frustration!



Child directed speech

Children respond best to 'child-directed speech' (i.e. 'baby-talk') until they start to use full sentences. Child-directed speech has:

- Slower pace & longer pauses
- Shorter, simpler sentences
- Exaggerated words & gestures
 - More repetition
 - Higher pitch



Match their level

As children get older, we start to use longer sentences and more 'adult-like' speech with them. To know how many words to use in a sentence, count the number of words they use & add a few on:

Child uses 1 or 2 words → Use up to 3 or 4 words
Child uses 3 or 4 words → Use up to 6 or 7 words



Don't forget their age (a 2 year old who uses long sentences is still a 2 year old & can't yet process complex sentences or ideas!)