



Talk, Listen, and Chat

Follow your child's interests and turn conversation into a chance to learn.

Helps Your Child Grow



Attending and Understanding

Responding to what has caught your child's attention and adding relevant information gives them practice listening, sharing ideas, and making sense of new experiences in real conversation.

Steps

- Around age three, your child may love conversation and can learn more about the world from your explanations.
- On a subway platform, the flashing door light and warning chime may naturally catch their attention.
- Follow that interest: "Ding-dong! The light is flashing because the doors are about to close. Everyone needs to finish getting on or off."
- At the next station, observe again and ask a concrete question: "Does the light flash before every door closes?" or "How many times did it flash?"
- Add vivid details to keep the exchange going: "There it goes again. The doors are closing, so everyone steps back."

Tips

- Start with whatever has caught your child's attention. A conversation that follows their interest is usually more engaging than simply explaining facts.
- You do not need to add much at once. Share one small piece of information your child can understand now, and leave more to discover next time.

Observations

- ☐ Discusses the traffic light with you while observing it
- ☐ Shows curiosity about things and events they notice