



Heart-to-Heart Talk

Listen closely, understand the message, and keep the conversation going.

Helps Your Child Grow



Attending and Understanding

Beginning with a topic your child cares about and asking specific questions helps them understand information about who, when, why, and what happened.

Steps

- Sometimes a child seems to press pause after a question and does not answer for a minute or two.
- First consider what kinds of language they currently understand - for example, questions about yesterday or tomorrow, multistep directions, or a character's feelings in a story.
- If the question is within reach but still gets no response, the topic may simply not be interesting. Shift toward something your child cares about.
- Instead of "What made you happy today?" try a specific connection: "What did you and Maya play today?"
- If an idea is imaginative or not quite accurate, listen to the whole thought before adding information and keep the conversation moving.
- When your child runs over to share a discovery, face them and listen with genuine attention so speaking feels worthwhile.

Tips

- If your child is clearly losing interest, pause instead of continuing to ask questions. Switch to a topic they enjoy or return to the conversation later.

Observations

- ☐ Answers more readily when the topic interests them
- ☐ Expresses their understanding and preferences