Everyday talk prompts for young children

Name _____

Card for parents and teachers

For 2- and 3-year-olds who say few words. Talk is the foundation for reading and writing later.

1. **One step up**
   If your child says “car”, you say “blue car” or “car goes fast”. ☐

2. **Narrate**
   Talk about what you are doing: “I’m washing the cup. Splash!” ☐

3. **Sound effects**
   Animal sounds and noises (moo, vroom, pop) are easy first words. ☐

4. **Wait**
   Pause and look expectant. Give your child time to try. ☐

5. **Choices**
   “Apple or banana?” works better than a yes-or-no question. ☐

By about 2 years most children combine two words. If your child has few or no words, or you are worried, talk to your child’s doctor. Help is available early.

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