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.