

## Building Sentences // Age 2 - 3

### Looking at books together

Use any age appropriate book that your child enjoys! Sit so that you can share facial expressions.

Make the book exciting by:

- \* Saying it with feeling – be animated and expressive.
- \* Build up anticipation.
- \* Change the names to include your child/family/friends.
- \* Change the story to fit the circumstances of your child's life.



There is no need to read the text but try:

- \* **Following** your child's lead and commenting on what interests him
- \* **Expanding** on what he says, for example, if they say "eat", you could say "yes, the duck's eating".
- \* **Model** examples of two word combinations, for example, "the tiger's drinking"
- \* Leaving **gaps** for him to fill in the words e.g. "the monkey said..."
- \* **Taking it in turns** to talk about a picture each
- \* Using **repetition** e.g. books where the story line is repetitive



### Adding to what your child has said

Adding one word to your child's words or short sentences is a good way of encouraging your child to use longer sentences. For example:

Child: 'Car!'

Adult: 'Yes – a **blue** car!', or 'You're **driving** the car!'

Child: 'look big dog!'

Adult: 'oh yes, the big dog's **eating/running...**'