

Reduce questions, comment instead

- It is common for adults to ask kids questions when we want them to say something. Asking many questions, especially ones that “test” your child’s knowledge can actually increase the pressure to talk, and aren’t very motivating for kids.

Avoid questions such as:

- “What’s that?”
- “What colour is that?”
- “What animal is that?”

- When possible, **replace questions with a simple comment**. This will allow your child to hear the words that you would like them to learn instead.

- Make a comment that matches what your child is interested in in that very moment. When your comment builds on what your child is doing, it helps keep an interaction going and provides them with a word that they can learn.
- Keep comments short and grammatical, and emphasize the important words.

For example: When your child is getting ready to go outside, you may say, “**Boots on.**”



“Car! That car is fast!”



For example: If your child is playing with toy cars, you may say, “**Car! That car is fast!**”

Adapted from the Hanen Centre. www.hanen.org