



EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO BUILD VOCABULARY

TIPSHEET-8: in the car

Building your child's vocabulary does not always have to involve setting up separate activities and games in your already very busy lives. One of the most powerful ways to build your child's vocabulary is through your natural interactions together during your day to day activities and routines.

In the car: With our ever increasing busy lives, we spend a lot of our time in the car. Being in the car with our children can provide us with many opportunities to build vocabulary through commenting or talking about what is happening in the environment as it occurs.

Examples of vocabulary you can use while in the car: There is a huge range of words you can use while driving in the car with your children. These include nouns (names); verbs (actions); adjectives and adverbs (descriptive language). Below are some examples of suggested vocabulary which you can use while driving in the car. Of course the lists can be endless, so use whatever words/vocabulary that fits for you and your child. I have chosen a vocabulary of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs that relate together. For example, if you see a bus when driving, you can say to your child **"Look, big bus driving"**! Remember if your child is not yet talking or only has a limited vocabulary make sure you keep your language model simple (single words or 2 words together).

NOUNS

Car
horn
Car seat /seat belt
traffic lights
Road/bridge/tunnel
Fire-engine/ambulance
Bus/train/plane
Trees/hills
animals
wheels
man/lady/boy/girl

VERBS

drive/stop/go
push/press
sit/ put on/take off
stop/go/wait
drive on /go
see/look
flying/driving/riding
look
walking/running/sleeping/flying
go/spinning/round and round
walking/driving/talking

ADJECTIVES/ADVERBS

fast/slow/colours
"beep beep"/loud/soft
in/out
red/orange/green
long/short/under/through
fast/"nee-naw-nee-naw"
big/little/"choo-choo"
big/little/colours
counting/"animal sounds"
counting/colours
fast/slow/happy

REMEMBER: Children learn best through rhyme and repetition, so don't be afraid to repeat the same word over and over again!!! Make up your own silly little rhymes or sing familiar songs such as:

"Take me riding in your car"

"The wheels on the bus".

It can take some time for children to learn new words. If your child is not naturally imitating the words don't worry. Keep talking and providing an ongoing commentary as this is an appropriate technique to use all day long every day (if you feel like you can manage it). If you feel that your child needs something a little more than commenting/talking, try the language stimulation strategies outlined in tip sheets 1, 4 & 5.

Always contact a speech and language pathologist if you have any concerns regarding your child's speech and language development.

Kath Keiper (Paediatric Speech Pathologist; creator of "Can you sound like me?")

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