

A guide for parents about joining two words together

Joining two words together

Is your child using single words but not yet joining two together?

Here are some ways you can help.

Useful tips:

- Expand what your child is saying by adding a word on to it for example child: “Dog,” and adult: “Big dog.”
- Talk or sign in very short sentences as often as possible to show your child how to join two words or signs together, for example: “Mummy eat.”
- Do not expect your child to start copying you straight away. They will have to hear and see you say or sign the phrases lots of times before they are ready to join in.
- Children will sometimes copy a phrase after you have said or signed it. This is an important part of language development, but it does not always mean that your child will use the words or spontaneously yet.
- Children learn best when they attach meaning to words and signs. Make sure what you are saying makes sense within the situation you are in.
- Give praise when your child tries to speak or sign. Don't worry if their speech or signing isn't clear – this will develop in time.

Activities to help your child join two words together

- Start by introducing some very simple two-word phrases such as: “more” and “gone.” When your child is playing and they want more, model a two-word phrase, for example “more puzzle”. When tidying up say or sign “ball gone” or “car gone” as you put each thing in a box or bag.
- Carry out simple play activities with your child. Take it in turns to ask each other: “What shall we do?” For example: “Brush teddy”, “wash dolly.”
- Using everyday objects, for example a toothbrush or a hairbrush, ask your child: “What do you do with this?” Your child might answer or sign “teeth.” You reply: “Yes, brush teeth.” If your child does not reply you could try offering them a choice, for example: “Brush hair or brush teeth?”
- Make a simple post box out of a shoe box. Find some pictures of people doing things and lay them face down on the table. Ask your child to pick up a card and encourage them to tell you about the picture, for example: “Girl reading.” They can then post the picture in the post box.

Contact us

Please contact your Speech and Language Therapy Department if you have any queries or concerns regarding the information in this leaflet.

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Or visit www.kentcht.nhs.uk and follow the link to Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy.



Notes

Customer Care Team

If you have a query about our health services, or would like to comment, compliment or complain about Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust, you can contact the **Customer Care Team**.

Phone: 0300 123 1807, 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Please say if you would like the team to call you back

Text: 07943 091958 **Email:** kcht.cct@nhs.net

Address: Customer Care Team, Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust, Trinity House, 110-120 Upper Pemberton, Eureka Park, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AZ **Web:** www.kentcht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another language, audio, Braille, Easy Read or large print, please ask a member of staff.

You will be asked for your agreement to treatment and, if necessary, your permission to share your personal information.

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