

Birth to Five

WAYS TO EXPAND **OLDER INFANTS' AND TODDLERS'** COMMUNICATIONS

One of the main ways of extending conversations with children is to expand on their communications. This process begins even before a child can speak a complete sentence. By responding to an older infant or toddler's facial expressions, gestures, vocalizations, and words, you lay the foundation for meaningful back-and-forth exchanges.

Expand on children's communications to scaffold language.



Interpret and give words to my nonverbal and verbal communications.



Make my phrase more complete and complex.



Add more precise and interesting words.

Expand to give older infants and toddlers information about their communications.



Clarify and summarize my thoughts.

Relate to my life.

Link to prior knowledge.

Relate to my actions.

Apply to my world.

Explain thinking.

Connect concepts.

Ask open-ended questions that support higher-level thinking.