







Using clearer sentences

Unclear sentences can be confusing for listeners and frustrating for children. Sentences are clearer when they include all of the necessary words in the right order.

To help children use clearer sentences, you can:

Talk about what children are doing using short, clear sentences, and **Rephrase children's sentences** to include all of the words in the right order.

Play with clearer sentences: Use clear sentences in your play together



Play...shopping and cooking

Pretend that you are shopping or cooking together.

Describe what your child is doing using short, clear sentences.

Child: (putting toy bananas in a basket)

You: You're putting bananas in the basket.



At home...getting dressed

Talk about getting dressed in the morning and putting on pyjamas at night.

Rephrase what your child says to make a clearer sentence.

Child: I no that one.

You: You don't want that shirt.



Out and about...packing your bag

Pack your bag for the day together.

Rephrase what your child says to make it clearer.

Child: These go the bag in.

You: These socks go in the bag.









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Read with clearer sentences: Visit the library and borrow some books

Where is the Green Sheep? by Mem Fox I'm a Dirty Dinosaur by Janeen Brian **Seadog** by Claire Saxby

Words for clearer sentences: Use these words in your day

Key words to help make clearer sentences might include:

Words about people: names of people, she, he, they, his, her, their

Words about places or things: names of objects, the, a, an, that, this

Words about actions: jump, run, kick, go, is, are, was, had, get, went, for

Words for combining: and, but, then, so

Learn about clearer sentences: Ways to help language grow

When you talk about what children are doing using short, clear sentences, you are:

- Helping sentences make sense to them, and
- Helping children to use clearer sentences.

When you **rephrase children's sentences** to include all words in the right order, you are:

- Showing that you understand what they have said, and
- Showing children how sentences can sound clearer.

Children do not have to repeat words after you. The more often children hear clear sentences, the more likely they will understand the words and their order, and learn how to use them in their own talking.

Speech pathology key terms: semantics, syntax, parallel talk, recasting.



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