







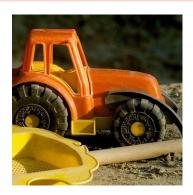
Using longer sentences

We use longer sentences to give others more information. Children can tell us more about their experiences, preferences, and ideas as they learn to use longer sentences.

To help children use longer sentences, you can:

Repeat children's sentences and add on words to make them longer, and Give children a choice using two longer sentences.

Play with longer sentences: Use longer sentences in your play together



Play...with cars and trucks

Play together with toy cars and trucks.

Repeat your child's sentence, and make it a little longer.

Child: Teddy's driving.

You: Teddy's driving a tractor.



At home...at mealtimes

Set the table together for dinner. Give your child two options with sentences that are a bit longer than your child would use.

You: Do you want *the big plate* or *the little plate*?

Do you want the *cup with black spots*, or the *cup with horses on it*?



Out and about...in the garden

Spend time in the garden or in the sandpit together. Repeat what your child says and add some words to make it longer.

Child: I have a shovel.

You: You have a shovel and a rake.



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Retrieved from: https://wnswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/Pages/Waiting-For-Speech-Pathology.aspx

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

Alexander's Outing by Pamela Allen The Crocodile Who Didn't Like Water by Gemma Merino *Tiddler* by Julia Donaldson

Words that help longer sentences: Use these words in your day

Longer sentences let children share more details. You can make sentences longer with:

Words for describing: big, nice, happy, little, round, bumpy, blue, sparkly

Phrases for describing: that is big, who is happy, which is round, blue and sparkly

Location words: in, on, there, underneath, home, Grandma's, day-care Location phrases: in the basket, on the blanket, over there, near day-care

Learn about longer sentences: Ways to help language grow

When you repeat children's sentences and add on words to make sentences longer, you are:

- Showing you understand what they have said, and
- Showing children how their sentences can be a bit longer.

When you give children a choice using two longer sentences, you are:

- Showing two ways that a sentence might be longer, and
- Showing how a longer sentence can give more information.

Children not have to repeat sentences after you. The more often children hear sentences that are a little longer than theirs, the more likely they will understand them and begin to use longer sentences in their own talking.

Speech pathology key terms: sentence length/complexity, expansion, binary choice.



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