

Other things to try: 2f

Using early words – ‘go’!



Why is this important?

Teaching early words such as ‘go’, ‘more’ and ‘gone’ have a clear purpose and children quickly learn that using these words makes something happen (e.g. a ball is rolled when ‘go’ is said, or children get ‘more’ food/toy/favourite activity when ‘more’ is used). These words have a function for children and are important for the later development of two-word phrases.

What to do

- Play with a toy car or other favourite vehicle.
- Start by rolling it backwards and forwards to each other (developing turn-taking skills).
- Slowly introduce ‘Ready, Steady, Go’ on your turn, waiting until ‘go’ has been said before rolling the car.
- Pause after ‘Ready, Steady ...’ to see if the child vocalises ‘Go’.



Step up

- Increase the amount of time between the ‘Ready’ and the ‘Steady’ so the child has to wait longer.
- Introduce ‘Ready, Steady, Go’ on the child’s turn.
- Extend this idea into everyday routines and play (e.g. roll or kick a ball, use a wind-up toy, run races, blow bubbles).

Step down

- Children may need lots and lots of repetitions before they are able to respond.
- Use a second adult to hold the child’s hand, gently stopping the car from being pushed until ‘Go’ has been said.
- Say ‘Ready, Steady, Go’ fairly quickly so the child has less time to wait.

