



Commenting & Labeling with Children Who Use Gestures & Sounds

Ideas for Describing, Naming, and Talking During Activities



Play

- When a child is playing ball, say, *"You're playing ball"* or *"You rolled the ball far."*
- During play time, notice what children are doing and say one thing about it. *"You are crawling!" "Up!" "You're cooking." "Rocking the baby."*
- When an infant is playing with an object while they are in a bouncy seat, comment about what they are playing with. *"You have the bunny."*
- When an infant is positioned near a window, comment on what they might see outside the window. *"I see a bird!"*



Daily Routines

- While changing diapers, name the child's body parts as you point or touch them. *"Toes," "Knees,"* or *"Your tummy."*
- While diapering or changing clothes, describe what you are doing. *"I'm taking your diaper off." "Here's a clean diaper." "Let's clean up, then we can go play."*
- During bottle feeding, snack, or mealtime, name the foods. *"Yummy apples." "Spoon." "You are so hungry. Time for a bottle." "Push the switch to say 'more.'"*
- Talk about the pictures on children's clothing. *"You have Spiderman on your shoes!" "Katie has red flowers on her shirt."*



Books

- A child may not listen to an entire story, but might be more interested in talking about the pictures. Describe what people in the story are doing or how they look. *"The boys and girls are playing ball." "That's so silly. The dog is wearing a hat!"*
- While looking at books together, comment on the story or comment about the pictures. *"The bird is singing. He must be happy."*
- Name what the child is looking at or pointing to in the book. You can help the child point if they aren't pointing yet.
- Make up stories to go with picture books. When looking at a book with pictures of people, talk about who the people are, what they are doing, how they feel.

Comment & Label

Describe, name, or talk about a child's actions, activities, toys, or materials.

