



Providing Choices to Children Who Use Words

Ideas for Providing Choices During Activities



Play

- Offer a choice of two different kinds of toys to play with. *"Do you want the wooden blocks or the little people?"*
- When a child needs some direction in their play activity, offer a choice. *"Which would you like to play with - the dinosaurs or the puzzles?"*
- During an art activity, offer a choice of writing utensils, colors, and/or materials. *"Do you want markers or crayons?" "Which color paper would you like to use?"*
- Give choices that encourage social play. *"Do you want to play blocks with Lilly or kitchen with Malik?"*



Daily Routines

- Encourage children to help serve food by providing choices. *"Would you like to pass out the cheese or the grapes?"*
- During clean-up time, ask the child which toys they want to put away. *"Would you like to put away the blocks or the cars?"*
- When diapering, give choices of songs to sing. *"Do you want to sing 'ABCs' or 'Wheels on the Bus?'"*
- As a child becomes more independent with self-care, offer a choice of going alone or with an adult. *"Do you want to go potty by yourself or do you want me to come?"*



Books

- Make a variety of books available to children throughout the day.
- Present two books for children to choose to read. *"Do you want to read 'There was an Old Lady' or 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'?"*
- Have children choose where they want to sit and look at books. *"Would you like to sit at the table or sit on a pillow while you read?"*
- Let children choose who will read. *"Do you want to read the story or do you want me to read it to you?"*

Providing choices allows dual language learners to see words paired with objects and equips children with the words they need. If you speak both of the child's languages, offer the choice in one of their languages, and if they do not respond, offer the choice in their other language.

Provide Choices

Provide two objects or activities from which a child can choose, to encourage communication.

