

# Learning through Talk

# Ako mā te Kōrero

**Kōrero (conversation) is the best way to help children learn.**



## Talking with children

We need to talk *with* children, not just to them.

Children learn more language skills when:

- ★ they take the lead in conversations
- ★ they ask questions
- ★ we encourage them to expand on their ideas.

## Learning through books and waiata

Reading, talking about books, and singing songs and rhymes are some of the most effective ways to help children develop their language skills.



## Home languages

Children with a home language their teachers don't speak take a little longer to master the language used in their early learning service. Try and include greetings, words, and stories from your learners' home languages and cultures. In early childhood, children are learning to express themselves and to understand others.

### By the age of 1, children can:

- ★ use some single words
- ★ point and wave to communicate.

**20+ WORDS**

#### You can help by:

- ★ **describing** what you're doing – “And now we're going to put your shirt on.”

### By the age of 2, children can:

- ★ ask simple questions – “What's that?”
- ★ take turns in conversations.

**50+ WORDS**

#### You can help by:

- ★ **commenting** on what they are doing – “You're digging a big hole.”
- ★ **replying** with full sentences – “Milk!” “Would you like some more milk?”

### By the age of 3, children can:

- ★ use verbs and adjectives – “Koro is driving a big truck”
- ★ play imaginatively – using a block as a phone.

**200 to 500+ WORDS**

#### You can help by:

- ★ **introducing new words** – “Mm, does that taste nice? It's delicious!”
- ★ **playing word games** – rhymes and patterns – “big, bigger, biggest!”

### By the age of 4, children can:

- ★ ask lots of what, where, and why questions
- ★ understand more complex language structures – “Because ...”

**1000+ WORDS**

#### You can help by:

- ★ **letting children choose** books and activities and then talking about them
- ★ **using complex sentences** that have multiple clauses – “Put all the white paper back in the box under the table.”

### By the age of 5, children can:

- ★ generally use complete, well-formed sentences
- ★ take turns in longer conversations.

#### You can help by:

- ★ **asking** open-ended questions – what, why, where, when, how?
- ★ **making** books, cards, and shopping lists together.

For further information, see:

