

The Four S's

(From "It Takes Two to Talk" (2004) by Jan Pepper and Elaine Weitzman)

SAY LESS

Keep what you say *short* and *simple*. It will help your child to understand and remember words.

STRESS

Make the *key words* you say *stand out*. For example, say them more loudly or use exaggerated intonation. This will get your child's attention, and help them tune into the key words, learn them and repeat them.



SHOW

Show your child what you are talking about. Point to the object itself, or a picture, or a photograph of it. You can also use actions and gestures to illustrate what you say.

SLOW DOWN

Say the words more *slowly*, and pause between the words. This will give your child time to understand what you are saying, and maybe even make a comment or gesture of their own.