

Language development: two-word phrases

When children first learn to talk, they use single words.

Over time, children develop a range of different word groups such as naming words (nouns), action words (verbs) and describing words (adjectives). Children need a range of words from the different word groups in order to put two words together.

Once your child is using a range of single words, you can help them begin to put two words together.

Here are examples of different word groups that include words often used by children when they start to create simple phrases.



Word groups and frequently used words

Naming Words			Describing Words		'No More'
Dog	Cat	Cow	Hot	Fast	Gone / All gone
Star	Bottle	Nappy	Cold	Dirty	None
Mouth	Eyes	Ears	Happy	Soft	Finish
Feet	Sock	Shoe	Little	Green	
Ball	Book	Brush	Big	Sore	
Juice	Biscuit	Milk	Mad	Slow	
Spoon	Knife	Cup	Messy	Yummy	
Apple	Banana	Orange	Furry	Bumpy	
Daddy	Mummy	Baby			

Examples:

Naming Words + 'No More'

- "Milk's finished"
- "Cow gone"

Naming Words + Describing Words

- "Cold juice"
- "Big ball"

Action Words	Possession	'No'
Go Come Bang	My	No
Dry Cut Sleep	Mummy's	Not
Run Hide Walk	David's	Stop
Kick Hug Wash	Baby's	Don't
Roll Stop Put	Dolly's	
Stand Eat Push	Teddy's	
Like Blow Pull	Your	
Pat Hit Sit		
Jump Love Look		

Examples:

Action + 'No'

- "Don't hit"

Possession + Naming Words

- "My bottle"
- "Mummy's shoes"
- "Baby's brush"
- "Your eyes"



Hug cat

Action + Naming Words

- "Wash baby"
- "Push ball"
- "Eat biscuit"
- "Hug cat"

Describing Words + Action Words

- "Big jump"
- "Fast run"
- "Little sleep"
- "Happy hug"



Big jump!

Location Words		Social Words	'More'
In	On	Hi	More
Under	There	Bye	Another
Down	Here	Ta	Again
Outside	Up	Yes	
Out	Over	Please	

Examples:

Location Words + Social Words

- "Up please"

Location + Naming Words

- "In cup"
- "Shoes on?"



Social Words + Naming Words

- "Drink please"
- "Bye Daddy"

'More' + Naming Words

- "More banana"
- "Another biscuit"



Other Suggestions:

- Talk about things you see and do when you go for a walk, do the shopping or hang out the washing. For example, "Daddy's shirt", "Yummy apple".
- When your child says one word, add to it. If your child says, "Dog", you can say, "Yes. Big dog".
- When you look at books together, describe what you are seeing. For example, "Girl jumps", "Red shoes", "Big ball".
- Play games using a ball or another toy. Give your child phrases to copy as you play such as "Roll ball" or "Wash dolly".
- Praise your child whenever they put two words together. This is a big achievement!

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