



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

Giving Choices

Description: Did you know giving your child choices helps to develop his language skills? Giving choices allows your child to decide on something given your parameters. It provides a great model of the words for him/her to learn and imitate. It also allows your child to see the connection between a word and the real-life object.

Tips!

1. When giving the choice, use real objects so the child can see his/her options
2. Put the objects to your face, so he/she can see your mouth to produce the word
3. Accept a gesture as the communicative response (e.g. reaching, pointing)
4. Repeat your child's choice
5. Don't expect your child to imitate your word. It's okay if he/she only uses a gesture. But, if he/she DOES, give him/her tons of praise!

Example #1: Bath time

During this routine give choices using bath toys and towels. For example, you can say:

- "Want red or blue towel?"
- "Want duck or boat?"
- "Should I dry or you dry?"
- "Duck in or out?"

Example #2: Bedtime

Give your child choices at bedtime using pajamas, books, or singing. For example, you can say:

- "Truck or car jammies?"
- "Animal or car book?"
- "Twinkle Twinkle or Itsy Bitsy Spider?"

Example #3: Mealtime

Give your child choices during meals or snacks. For example, you can say:

- *“Chicken or Nutella?”*
- *“Cracker or Chip?”*
- *“Juice or water”*

Example #4: Playing with toys

Give your child choices of toys to play and while playing. For example, you can say:

- *“Cars or Play Doh?”*
- *“Baby or farm?”*
- *“Car go up or down?”*
- *“feed baby or change baby?”*