



The Fast Track to Teaching Verbs and Adjectives to Your Toddler

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Bridging the gap between baby talk and mature language building involves laying the foundation of sentence building. What makes a complete sentence? At its most simplistic form, a sentence needs a subject and a verb.



Building Sentences with Verbs and Adverbs

Verbs for your toddler will consist of action words. Your professing youngster should accumulate at **40 verbs** by the age of two.

Introducing New Verbs to Your Toddler

- **Picture Books and Nursery Rhymes:** reading picture books pairs audio with visual and allows your toddler to see at least one new verb on each page. Use a variety of books, including repetitive books and more traditional story books. Have fun acting out the events from the books.

- **Animal Movements:** Tap into your youngster's boundless energy by having them use animal movements. Instead of walking to the kitchen, have them crawl like a bear or hop like a frog.
- **Pretend Play:** Dramatic play opportunities allow for your toddler to use different verbs according to what they are pretending to be. Your little construction worker may bang the hammer or paint the wall. A ballerina may bow for the audience or twirl across the room.
- **Total Physical Response (TPR):** Use hand and body gestures to accompany words that you're using with your toddler. For example, when teaching the verb sleep fold your hands and lay your head towards your hands, as if they were a pillow.

Sprinkling Adjectives into the Mix

You want your toddler to use verbs as descriptors in their speech. This will come handy later in development when writing sentences and paragraphs. Use these strategies to teach adjectives:

- **Ask clarifying questions:** When following your daily routine, prompt your preschooler to use adjectives by asking clarifying questions. If your toddler tells you that they see a bird, ask, "What color was the bird? Was the bird big or small?"
- **Provide choices:** Providing choices addresses issues for your child. On one hand, giving choices allows for your child to have some level of control and power. Additionally, your toddler will use descriptors to identify what she is referring to. Give her the option to choose the green sippy cup or the red one.

Relationships Between Verbs and Adjectives

As your child curates her library of verbs and adjectives, highlight the logical connections between frequently used verbs and adjectives. Teaching opposites is a foundational step to showing how words are connected. You can use these lessons from Kids Academy to practice these skills.

Opposites



Let's play bowling! Read the word on the left.
Then, circle its opposite on the right.



fast

quick

slow

run



big

large

small

boy



happy

dog

merry

sad



above

below

on

cloud

Opposite Words *KIDS

Replace the highlighted word with its opposite to match the picture. Check the correct answer.

1. full

white

tiny

empty



2. big



small

brown

funny

3. open

closed

cleaned

looked



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