

PRAATPRET

[LEARNING TO TALK IS FUN]



1. Learning to talk is fun

- Children learn language by hearing language and by imitating it.
- Children learn to talk through repetition.
- Children learn to talk during daily activities.
- Children learn to talk from the people around them.
- Children learn best when they find something fun; fun comes first!

With *PRAATPRET* we would like to lend a hand.

This product was created as part of the Peer Review Process for Speech Therapists, quality circle toddlers and kindergarteners (Intercollegiale Toetsing Logopedisten, kwaliteitskring peuters en kleuters) Nathasja Barmes, Jeanne Beekman, Mariska Cornelissen, Claire Jansen, Petra Kratsborn, Mariska Kuper, Anja Leerink, Mieke Michels, Bouwina Scheringa, Erna Steeg, Roos Tangelder, Evelyn Verver, Carolien Veldman, Mara Weenink.

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2. How do I follow my child?

- **Look** at your child.

How does your child look at things? What gestures does your child make? What does your child say? What does your child mean?

- **Wait** and give your child the time to say something.

This gives your child the chance to explain what he means.

- **Listen** carefully when your child is trying to say something.

- **Pay attention.**

In this way, you will encourage your child to keep trying to explain himself when he wants to tell you something.



What you can do yourself?

1. **Look at what your child is watching. Pay attention to how your child looks: happy, sad? Respond to what your child sees.**
2. **Look at the body language and gestures your child makes.**
3. **There may be moments of silence; you do not need to fill all the silences with talk. It is an opportunity for your child to say something and a chance for you to watch what your child does.**
4. **Listen carefully to your child. This gives confidence and invites the child to continue to talk.**

3. How do I adapt to this?

You can do something together with your child. Your child says or does something; you show that you are listening and encourage your child to continue to talk.

You imitate your child: make the same sounds, make the same movements and you will have fun together.

Translate into words what your child does: say what your child wanted to say.

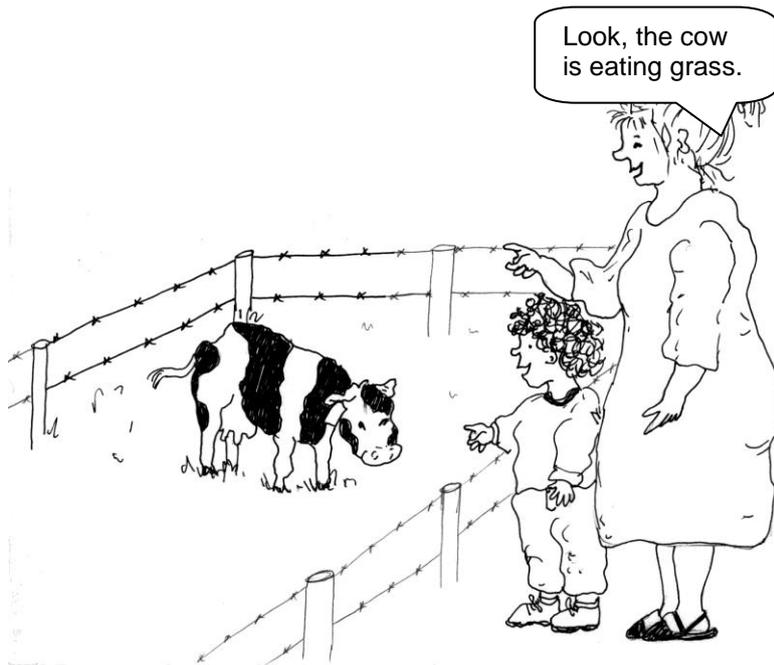


What can you do yourself?

1. Kneel or sit on the ground, so you are at eye level with your child.
2. Wait until your child takes his turn. How does your child look at things? What does your child look at? These are already moments to share. ('Do you hear something? Yes, daddy's car.')
3. Copy your child's the movements/gestures/sounds/words. This way, you indicate that you are interested. This is an encouragement for your child to continue. (If your child plays with the car, you also say 'brum brum!')
4. Give your child a chance to speak. Help him by asking questions that he can understand. ('What do you want? Do you want the ball or the book?')

4. How do I add language?

If you are doing things together with your child and tell what is happening, you are offering language. This allows your child to learn new words and to use them at a later time. You copy what your child is doing and verbalize it to the child, adding an additional gesture, word or phrase to what you are doing or saying.



What you can do yourself?

1. Tell the child, during daily activities like bathing, what you are doing: 'I'm washing your hair, I'm washing your belly, I'm washing your face.'
2. If you show your child something, such as toys, talk about it: 'A red ball, the ball can roll'.
3. If your child does something that he should not, tell him what he is doing and why he cannot do it. Explain to him what he should do that is better: 'Are you walking in the street? You can't do that, that's dangerous! Maybe a car will come! Come play on the sidewalk, that is OK.' In this way, you offer an immediate alternative.
4. If your child eats something that he does not like and says: 'Bah', then say what your child would like to say: 'Bah, you don't like that, do you?'.

5. Looking at and reading books together

By reading together, children also learn language.

Your child learns new words through repetition; read the same book over and over again. Your child's feeling for language is thus stimulated; the child learns not only the words and syntax, but the melody and the rhythm of the language.



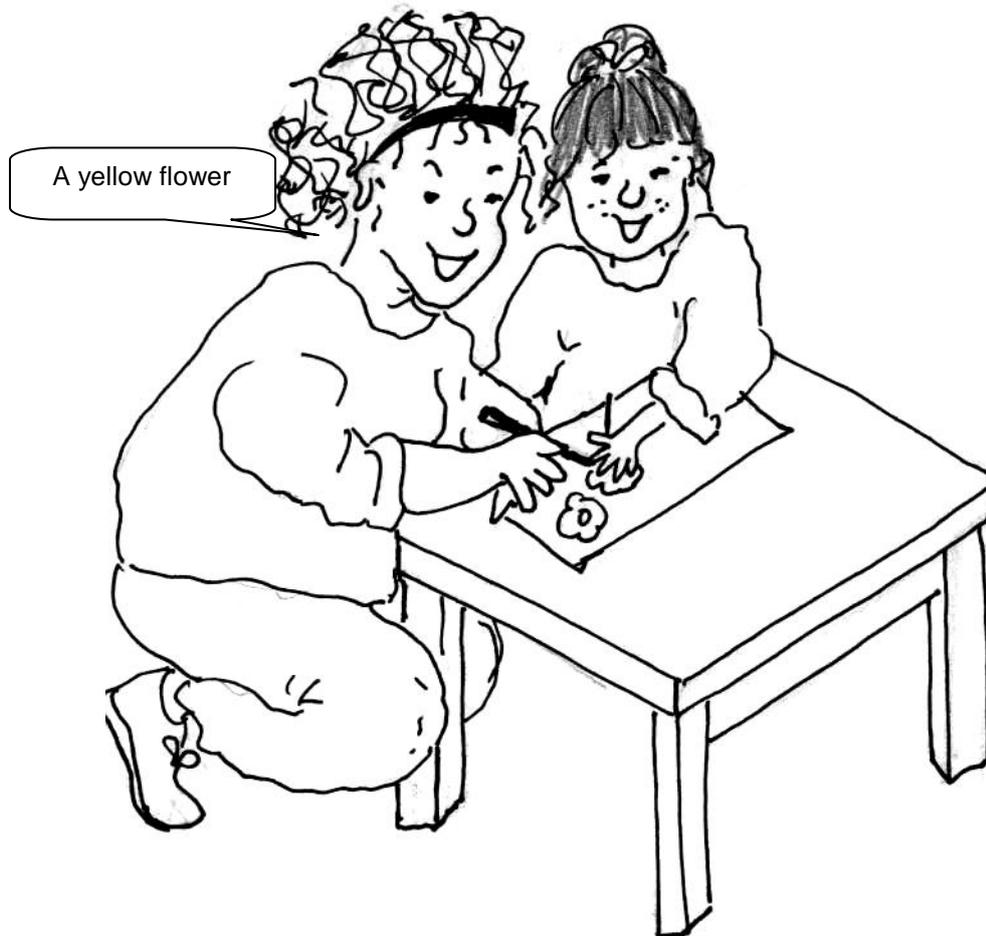
What you can do yourself?

1. Put the emphasis on rhythm, rhyme and words. The story is thus more exciting.
2. Change the names in the book by using the name of your child, a brother, sister, girlfriend or boyfriend.
3. Read and look at the book together, even if your child cannot yet read. He can perhaps complete the sentences or even invent his own. ('The sweet little mouse lived in a')
4. Let the child tell or point to what he sees in the pictures and talk about it together.

6. Cut and paste together = talk together

While you are cutting and pasting together, you can talk to your child about what you are doing. Thus, the child learns words that belong to a particular action. Your child will enjoy the contact and attention: a good time for a chat and it is fun for two!

By repeating your child's words, you teach your child to repeat your words.



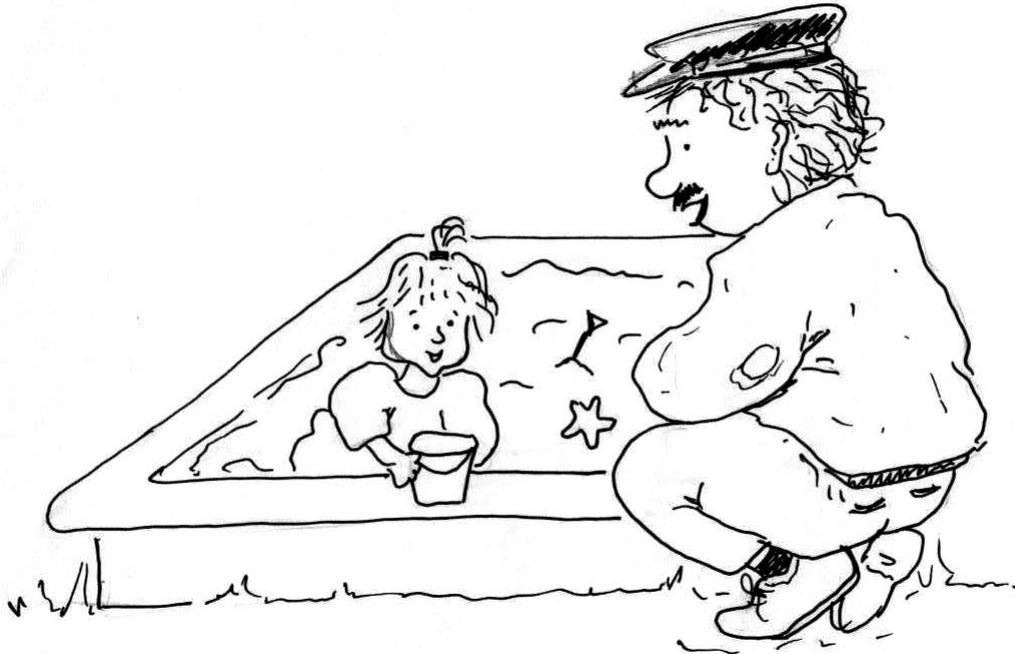
What can you do yourself?

1. **Sit down and draw together.** Talk about the colours and the movements that you are making. Copy the sounds, words and actions of your child.
2. **If you are hanging a picture where it is visible, everyone can admire it and say something about it.**
3. **Make a photo album together.** This way, you and your child can look back on past events and talk about them.
4. **Play with clay together.** Instead of deciding for the child what he is going to make, you can ask open-ended questions, for example: 'What shall we make now?'

7. How do you play together?

Right from birth, a child enjoys being with you. You and your child will enjoy the contact. Children like cosy games. If you stop for a moment, your child will make it clear that he wants to continue. Recognize the signal; this is how communication is created! Take turns doing the activities and say what you are doing. Invite your child to participate and give him the time he needs to do this.

Let your child help with daily activities. Make it a game, kids love to help.



What you can do yourself?

1. Play peekaboo, play and sing 'Hop hop horsey', do 'I'm a little teapot' together.
2. Let your child help set the table ('this goes here'), help with the laundry ('this is daddy's, this is mommy's), with watering plants ('Now water that one, now that one ...') and put the groceries away together while you name everything.
3. Play with a tea set and pretend to eat and drink. Talk to each other by a toy telephone. Play with a cardboard box and pretend it is a boat. Let your child play dress-up.

8. How do you make music together?

Children love singing and dancing.

By singing and dancing together, you will teach your child to listen to the rhythm and the melody.

He will also learn new words and the matching gestures.

Turn on music more often yourself! (and turn off the radio and television more often).



What you can do yourself?

1. You can sing along all day while brushing your teeth, driving a car, cycling, changing the diaper: make up your own words.
2. The words of the song are about what you are doing. Use a familiar tune: 'One, two, three, four, sweater on, pants on, one, two, three, four, all of my clothes on.'
3. Clap your hands and walk with a song, make up movements to go with it.
4. Take turns: you sing 'kitty meow, come'. Your child sings: 'now' (= soon). You sing 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes.' Your child grabs his foot. 'Well done, let's do it again!'