THE NATIONAL CENTER ON Quality Teaching and Learning

EARLY HEAD START National Resource Center™

TIPS FOR TEACHERS
EXPANSIONS

Birth to Five

WAYS TO EXPAND **OLDER INFANTS' AND TODDLERS'** COMMUNICATIONS

One of the main ways of extending conversations with children is to expand on their communications. This process begins even before a child can speak a complete sentence. By responding to an older infant or toddler's facial expressions, gestures, vocalizations, and words, you lay the foundation for meaningful back-and-forth exchanges.

Expand on children's communications to scaffold language.

- Interpret and give words to my nonverbal and verbal communications.
- Make my phrase more complete and complex.
- Add more precise and interesting words.

Expand to give older infants and toddlers information about their communications.

- Clarify and summarize my thoughts.
- Relate to my life.
- Link to prior knowledge.
- Relate to my actions.
- Apply to my world.
- Explain thinking.
- Connect concepts.
- Ask open-ended questions that support higher-level thinking.

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For more information, contact us at: **NCQTL@UW.EDU** or **877-731-0764**

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