



Learning & Growing Together

An online newsletter for parents!

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Words Are Powerful

Words Can Be Very Powerful

Remember this when talking with your child. Think before you speak. When talking with your child, think about what you are saying. Will your child understand what you really mean?

Here Are Some Things Adults Say to Children That Might Not Be Understood

You might tell your young child to be nice. How can the word be defined? It's better to show your child exactly what you mean. If you insist that your child share something, she may not understand what sharing is yet. She needs to be taught and shown how to take turns first. After learning how to do this, your child will eventually be able to comprehend what sharing means.

An adult may say to a young child, "Be polite" or "Cooperate" or "Be safe." What does polite mean to a

three year old? Can a two year old really understand what it means to be safe?

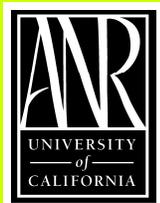
To understand what the word cooperate means, a child needs to be taught how to take turns. Teach your child how to do something with someone else. Children learn much faster when they are shown how to do something. This is normal. It's how a young child develops and learns new things. Be aware of this. Be patient as your child learns.



There is the Old Expression, "Actions Speak Louder Than Words"

This is true, but sometimes actions can be hurtful. You can teach your child how to use words instead of aggressive actions. Don't just say, "Use your words." Demonstrate! Teach your child how.

A child often acts aggressively when another child takes a toy away or when he wants something another child has. Teach your child how to ask for a turn when the other child is done. If another



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April Showers Bring...More Books!

Here are some rainy day books to help make the most of your read aloud experiences with your child. Read, read, read; you're building a strong foundation for your child's later reading abilities!

Listen to the Rain
Bill Martin Jr.

Rain
Robert Kalan

Down Comes the Rain
Franklyn M. Branley

Who Likes Rain?
Wong Herbert Yee

The Rain Came Down
David Shannon

Come On Rain!
Karen Hesse

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain
Verna Aardema

When Rain Falls
Melissa Stewart

Rain
Manya Stojic

A Walk in the Rain with a Brain
Edward Hallowell

Mushroom in the Rain
Mirra Ginsburg

Rain Feet
Angela Johnson

In the Rain with Baby Duck
Amy Hest

Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Rain or Shine
Erica Silverman

Where Does the Butterfly Go When it Rains?
May Garelick

Rain Rain Rivers
Norma Fox Mazer

What Makes it Rain?

The Story of a Raindrop
Keith Brandt



Finger Plays to Learn Together!

Finger plays are valuable activities that help children acquire the skills essential to their development and learning. Finger plays help improve memory and language skills, while also aiding in the development of hand-eye coordination, large, and fine motor skills.

APRIL CLOUDS
By Silberg and Schiller

Two little clouds one April day,
(hold both hands in fists)
Went sailing across the sky.

(move fists from left to right)

The went so fast they bumped their heads.

(bump fists together)

And both began to cry.

(point to eyes)

The big round sun came out and said,

(make circle with arms)

"Oh, never mind, my dears, I'll send all my sunbeams down

(wiggle fingers downward like rain)

To dry your fallen tears."

THE WIND

By Paula R. Westernen

See me blow like the wind
(blow gently)

See me bring the rain
(wiggle fingers like rain falling)

When I blow quite softly,
(blow gently)

I can whisper my name
(whisper your child's name)



Words Are Powerful *continued*

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child tries to take something away from him, teach your child to say, "No, I'm not done with that."

You can teach your child how to do this by using toy people



-figures or puppets to act out a scene where one hits or pushes another. Then have the toy figures or the puppets show how to solve the problem by talking about it. This is a good

way to show your child how using words can prevent the need to hit or push.

Communication is Important!

Here are some tips for communicating with children:

- Even before your child can talk, describe what you are doing when you are with her. Do this at meal times, when dressing your child, when playing with your child, and during diapering routines. When doing things around the house, describe what you are doing if your child is nearby. Talk about what you see when riding in the car or going for a walk

together. This will help your child learn language.

- When talking about your child with another adult, be careful what you say and what those words may mean to your child. It is best to include your child in the conversation.
- Don't ask your child a question about something you already know the answer to. Instead of asking your child the color of something say, "Tell me something you see that is red."
- Use questions such as, "What do you think?" or "Tell me

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Magical Shrinking Puddles

Select one of the stories about rain from the list on page two and then try this simple activity!

Has your child ever noticed that the puddles left behind after a rain eventually disappear? Try this fun and easy way of recording the magic "shrinking" puddle:

When the sun comes out after a

rain, go outside and find a puddle that is on a flat surface of cement or black top. Trace the outer edge of the puddle with chalk.



Have your child make predictions about what is going to happen to the puddle.

Go back inside. After about one hour, return to the puddle and trace the new outer edge of

the puddle. This will allow your child to "see" the science of evaporation in action.

Here is the scientific explanation:

When water puddles on cement or black top, the heat from the sun slowly causes the liquid water to change into *water vapor*, which is a gas. The water vapor then rises into the air. This process is called *evaporation*.



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Words Are Powerful *continued*

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about it." These with encourage your child to talk about something instead of giving one-word answers.

- Have good conversations with your child. Really listen to her and look at her when she is talking. Meal times are good times for family conversations.
- Teach your child how to solve a problem by talking about it. This means naming the problem and then talking about ways it can be solved. When children learn to problem solve, they gain a valuable life skill.

- Children think very literally, so be careful how you say something. If you say, "The computer crashed," your child might think it got all smashed up.
- When you need to say "no," do so and mean it. This will teach your child that you mean what you say.
- Use simple words and short sentences when talking with your child.
- Give the directions one step at a time when asking a young child to do something.



- Be careful not to phrase something as a question when your child really does not have a choice. An example is, "Do you want to put your coat on?" It's better to say, "You need to put your coat on." Another example is "It's time to go to bed, okay? Eliminate the word okay. It implies that you give your child the choice of saying no.

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