

# Growing great talkers

## Example: Create music using kitchen stuff\*

Instructions for this activity can be found on the [sflp.org.nz](http://sflp.org.nz) website in the **Music** category.

We talk everyday, but the way you talk to your child makes a big difference in how well they learn to talk. Talk with your child using more words and your child will learn more words and ideas. Here's an example of a 'Simple' conversation and a 'Great/Gifting' conversation. A 'Great/Gifting' conversation has more words and ideas to help your child learn.



### A 'Simple' Conversation

- Adult: You want to play with my pots  
Okay. Make some music.
- Child: I want to hit and ...Mum, I want a  
pot...and another pot... This one.
- Adult: Okay... Um... Here... here's a pot.  
Don't drum too hard though.  
Make some music. Go on.  
Hit the pot... like this.  
*(Mum hits the pot with her hand in  
a beat).*
- Child: I want a lid. This lid. I can hit it.
- Adult: No... try hitting the pot like I did.  
Look... Now, play by yourself.  
I'm busy making tea.
- Child: *(Child finds a spoon on the table  
and starts hitting the pot with it.)*  
This is a big spoon, isn't it?  
I'm going to use it to hit my pot.

#### Number of words spoken = 83

44 words by adult directly to child  
39 words by child to adult

#### Simpler words used

pots • make some music  
drum too hard • try hitting • by yourself  
busy making tea • a big spoon

#### Fewer ideas on offer

- You can make music with a pot.
- Hit a pot with your hand to drum.
- Play by yourself.
- Mum is busy.
- You can use a spoon to hit a pot.

**Talk with your child using  
more words.**

**More words gift more words.  
Your child's words will grow.  
More words gift more ideas.  
Your child's ideas will grow.**

**Talk to your child  
using more words.**

**Encourage your  
child to talk by  
looking and  
listening.**

**Ask questions  
with your child to  
help them to think.  
Talk about your  
thinking too.**

**Explain what you  
are doing and what  
words mean.**

**Join in, laugh and  
play with your  
child. Children  
love fun.**

**Use more words.  
These are gifts,  
helping them to  
become great  
talkers.**

**Use new and  
different words.  
They can learn  
and use these too.**

**Give your child  
time to talk.  
Notice what they  
are saying and  
respond to their  
talk.**

**"Talking with your  
child gifts ideas,  
knowledge and  
language."**

Dr Jannie van Hees

### A 'Great/Gifting' Conversation

- Adult: I know... Let's open up this cupboard and you  
and I can take turns to choose something to be an  
instrument. Good idea? *(Mum guides the child to open  
the cupboard, peers inside and chooses a pot.)*
- Child: Yes... I want to choose... Yes... I choose and then  
you choose... Okay? *(The child shows she understands  
the idea of taking turns and choosing.)*
- Adult: Okay... Um... Here. I'll choose this very big pot we  
use for making soup. It's the one I made soup in on  
Monday. It could be a booming bass drum. I'll put it  
on the floor here. *(Mum puts her very big pot down,  
directly looking at the child as she does this.)* Your turn.  
I wonder what you can spy?
- Child: This one... This one on the floor. It's a lid. It's a lid for  
the pot. I can hit it. *(Mum kneels down beside the child  
where she has the lid.)*
- Adult: Ah... The lid could make a beautiful rhythm, couldn't  
it? What about if you choose a really big spoon from  
the cutlery drawer and you gently tap the lid like a  
band drum... *(Mum shows a stroking action)* Like Uncle  
Dan when he plays in the band. Remember how Uncle  
hits and strokes his drums. You could gently hit and  
stroke the lid like he does. He plays the ukulele too,  
doesn't he? What a clever musician he is! *(Mum gently  
taps a beating noise by stroking her fingers across the lid.)*
- Child: *(Child goes to cutlery drawer which is now open.)* This is  
a big spoon, isn't it? I'm going to use this with my lid.

#### Number of words spoken = 193

142 words by adult directly to child (gifting language)  
51 words by child to adult

#### HIGHER LEVEL words used

open up • cupboard • take turns to choose something  
a big pot • making soup on Monday  
a booming bass drum • the floor • I wonder • can spy  
a beautiful rhythm • gently tap • a really big spoon  
remember • the cutlery drawer • gently hit and stroke the lid  
a band drummer • the ukulele • a clever musician

#### More ideas on offer

- Pots come in various sizes.
- A spoon can be a musical stroking and hitting tool, used with a lid or pot.
- You can make soup in a pot.
- We make soup.
- Bass drums making a booming sound.
- We can make rhythm with kitchen things.
- Spoons are stored in the cutlery drawers.
- Gently stroking and hitting makes rhythm.
- Uncle Dan is band drummer
- Uncle plays drums and the ukulele
- A musician plays music and makes sound.

\* Some people may not wish to use kitchen items as instruments for cultural reasons.