

# +1 Routine *for increasing language*

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After they acquire their first 50 words, children start to combine single words into phrases. Sentence length should be equal to their age (2 year olds use 2-word utterances and 3 year olds use 3-word utterances) until they are 5 years old.

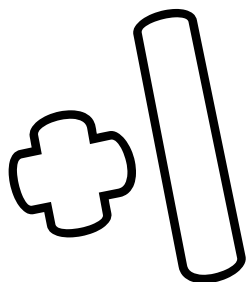
## **The +1 Routine is a strategy to increase your child's utterance length.**

The goal is to model a phrase just one word longer in length than what your child says. This will help your child by exposing him to language just above his current level. You should repeat what your child says and add one word. You will not expect your child to repeat the +1 phrase. Try to vary the type of word you add. Don't just add "please" to the end of every sentence. Use this idea when your child has already initiated the conversation. They need to speak first and you will just expand their utterance.

Child: "bird"                      Parent: "little bird"

Child: "me up"                    Parent: "pick me up"

Child: "help"                      Parent: "help me"



### **Types of Combinations?**

noun + verb (mama go)  
action + object (kick ball)  
action + location (go bed)  
possessor + possession (my ball)