

Verbal Routines *for increasing language*

“Ready, set, go!” It’s a verbal routine you probably use every day with your child, but do you know why your child can fill in the “go”? Verbal routines are words that become predictable because you say them the same way, in the same activity repeatedly.

Using verbal routines over and over again allows your child predictable practice with a limited set of words. Soon you can omit the last word from a sequence and they can fill in the blank.

Common verbal routines include familiar songs and nursery rhymes. They can also include a made up song you sing during an activity like “Wash, wash, wash your hands. Make them nice and clean!”

Verbal routines can include phrases that you use in many different settings such as counting “1, 2, 3” or “ready, set, go.”

Sometimes your verbal routines might be specific to your child! If you make up a silly saying while you build and crash blocks, say it over and over again. If your child likes a superhero, put his/her name in a rhyme about being a superhero.



Repetitive Books & Songs

for expanding language

Picking books to read with your young child is almost as important as reading them! Picking books with repetitive texts allows you to work on many language and pre-literacy skills. Sit with your child facing you so your child can watch your face and mouth.

Books with repetitive texts provide a rhythm to speech much like music. They become easily memorized and children know what to expect next. This allows them to begin to use words to finish parts of the books.

Favorite Repetitive Texts:

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?
by Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle
Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman
Pete the Cat by Eric Litwin
The Napping House Audrey & Don Wood

It's okay to read a book over and over again. Use inflection to make your voice interesting. Use hand gestures and facial expressions that exaggerate your meaning.

