When your child starts to say words or make sounds that could be words, connect them to more words. If he/she says “nose,” you can say, “There’s your nose and there’s mine.” If your child says “beep, beep,” you can say, “The horns on the car go beep, beep.” Later you can ask, “What sound do cars make?”

Children learn to speak by hearing you connect the sounds they make with words. And they learn more words by your adding words to their words. In the process, their brains are becoming more efficient and faster at processing sounds—the building blocks of speech.