



## Narration

Have you ever noticed that chatty parents have chatty children? The more language that we use when interacting with our children the more talking they will do. Narration is one technique that can be used to input language throughout your child's day. This can sound like a daunting and difficult task. What could you possibly talk about all day?

Narration involves talking about what you are doing or are about to do. This is something that can easily be incorporated into your everyday life. For some parents narration may not come naturally and it may feel a little forced at first. Over time with a little bit of practice it should become second nature. When you start narrating tasks within your daily routine, you will realize the number of steps it takes to complete tasks. We take these steps for granted as most action is automatic. Slowing down a task, and narrating each step not only teaches a child about sequencing and order, it also gives them the language involved in a meaningful context.

How could we narrate making a bottle of milk?

- Time for a bottle!
- Where could your bottle be?
- I think it's in this drawer.... Let's open the drawer and look inside.....
- There it is, your blue bottle!
- We need fill it up with water.
- There's the tap, ready 1..2..3.. turn it on!
- Fill it up up up and stop!
- Let's put the bottle on the counter and find your formula.
- I think it's in the pantry.
- Open the door..
- There it is!
- Let's put it on the counter next to the bottle.
- Now we need 4 scoops.
- Ready...scoop and put it in , that's one... etc..
- Ok, put the teat on top, twist twist twist.
- And now for the fun part, we shake shake shake the bottle.

The key to narration is joint attention. Your child needs to be focused on whatever you are narrating. In the early stages of language learning it is very important that you are talking about the here and now. Here is another example of narration.

How could we narrate your baby's actions?

Hello (baby's name) , you are very smiley today! Are you blowing raspberries? (you blow raspberries). That's a funny sound. Oh look you found your feet! And into your mouth they go. Do they taste funny? (Puts her feet down). Are you banging on the floor, bang bang bang etc etc.