

Offering choices

How will it help?

Offering choices provides your child with a **clear language model**.

It also gives your child an **opportunity** to communicate with you.

It helps your child to **see** and **hear the word** at the same time.

How do I do it?

Start with **two** items. Have one item in each hand.

You will **show** and **say** the name of each item.

Say the name of the items and hold them **close to your child** so they can make a choice.



But my child is not talking

Your child will be using lots of other ways to communicate. Your child might make a choice by:

- Reaching.
- Looking at the item they want.
- Pointing.
- Making a sound.
- Using a sign or symbol.



Should I offer choices in English?

We work with lots of children who are learning two or more languages. It's a great thing to learn other languages.

If you are a bilingual parent, use the main home language with your child.

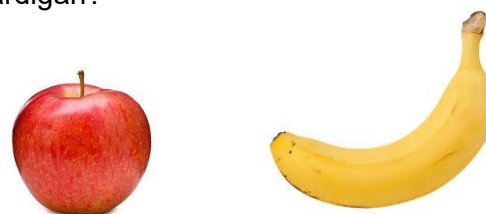
Bilingual parents will sometimes use the English words to name things, but use other words in their home language. This is fine to do.

For example, in Urdu, you might ask *Aapko kiya lena hai?* "apple?" ya "banana?"

When do I offer choices?

Offer choices when you can, everyday. Here are some ideas:

- When getting dressed 'do you want to wear a jumper or cardigan?'
- At snack time 'do you want an apple or banana?'
- At play time 'do you want the car or the bus?'
- At bath time 'wash your hair or your face?'



My child picked something they don't like

That's okay, give them the item they picked.

If they picked apple, and you know they don't like apples, let your child try it.

They will start to learn that 'apple' means the fruit they picked.

They will also learn that they don't like apples.

I need more help

You can also watch a video of these strategies [here](#).