# Language Development: Fast Facts

Here's some of the things we know about infant language development from the science of language learning.

## Child directed speech hacks

- Recast child's simple words into complete grammatical sentences.
- Extend the topic introduced by the child
- Use higher pitch, exaggerated intonation, slower speech and clearer enunciation
- Ask questions and use attention directing statements

## Interesting Facts

**1.** Babies are born wired for learning language. Babies from 1- to 4-months-of-age have been found able to disciminate between different speech sounds, even those originating in a language they've never heard. They are truly listeners of the world.

**2.** There is a vocabulary word spurt at 18 months. What does this mean? For most kids, they will acquire around 10 - 20 new words a week. Most kids go through this word spurt regardless of how much parents talk to kids. However, kids whose parents talk to them a lot typically have a faster rate of word learning.

**3.** The single biggest predictor of a child's language capacity is how much they are spoken to. In fact, studies find that it isn't WHAT is being said to an infant and child, but rather how MUCH is being said to an infant and child that predicts lagnuage skills in the future

## Overextension

Early words are often overextended, meaning that a word is applied to a bunch of different things. For example a child might learn the word apple refers to an apple, but they'll also apply it to other round fruit (like an orange). This is an opportunity to clarify for your child that these are different things known by different names. Simply label the object with the correct word.

## Over-regularisation errors

Children are really clever and often extract a language rule from a pattern they observe in the langugae they are hearing. Over-regularisation errors (e.g., fall/falled instead of fall/fell) happen because of this cleverness. This happens in child speech often. Simply repeat the correct word back and eventually they'll get it. English is contradictory and tough!