

Ready, Set...“GO!”

Strategies for teaching this easy first word



**SALLY
PRATT**
Speech Therapy

The Why and How

“Go” is a great first word for toddlers because it naturally incorporates three key learning strategies: **anticipation**, **responsiveness**, and **repetition**.

1. Anticipation

Step 1: Get your child familiar with the phrase by modeling “ready, set, go” throughout the day.

Step 2: Find a motivating (and slightly hard) activity—something that your toddler loves but can’t quite do by themselves.

Step 3: Begin the phrase (“Ready, set...”) and then WAIT. Look expectantly at your toddler and see what happens. Try to wait at least 10 seconds before completing the action and saying “go!”

2. Responsiveness

Respond to any vocalization your toddler makes. This shows them the power of using their voice.



Hint: It doesn’t matter if what they say sounds like “go” or not!

3. Repetition

The more opportunities your child has to practice, the more likely they will attempt saying the word!



Remember: Don’t feel upset or discouraged if this takes time. Just keep modeling!

Here are a few sample activities...

Playtime

- Making a car go
- Throwing a ball
- Pushing the swing
- Blowing bubbles
- Tossing your toddler in the air

Routines

- Turning on the faucet
- Dumping water in the bath
- Opening a door to go outside
- Picking your toddler up
- Pushing a shopping cart