Orthophonie VoxLingue Speech and Language

Fridge sheet

First two-word phrases: what counts, pivot words and how to add one word

Stick this sheet on the fridge. Jot down the phrases you hear, pick three pivot words for the week, and add one word to what your child says.

Is it a real phrase? The swap test

Can your child swap one of the two words? “more milk” becomes “more bubbles”: they're combining. “what's that” never changes: it's a chunk learned in one piece.

Counts
“daddy gone”, “want apple”, “more lait”

A step toward phrases
“the ball”, “Mommy” while pointing at the cookies

Not yet
“what's that”, “bye-bye daddy”, always the same

Six pivot words, three ways to say them

	Pivot word	Short, grammatical phrases to say often
☐	more	“More juice!” · “More pushes!” · “More bubbles!”
☐	gone	“The cat's gone!” · “Daddy's gone.” · “The bus is gone!”
☐	no	“No bath tonight.” · “No hat!” · “No more water.”
☐	too	“Daddy too!” · “A cookie for you too!” · “Teddy's sleeping too.”
☐	all done	“Bath's all done!” · “All done eating!” · “Snack is all done.”
☐	want	“You want water?” · “You want the ball?” · “You want to go out?”

Add one word, just one

“More.”	→	“Yes, more juice!”
“Car.”	→	“The car goes!”
“Bath?”	→	“No bath tonight.”

Stress the two key words, and keep the little words.

The pause, without “say it”

1. Say the word yourself.
2. Wait 10 to 20 seconds.
3. Give it, even with no answer.

Never ask your child to repeat before you give.

Phrases I heard this week

No two-word phrases at 24 months? In Québec, contact the CLSC or ask the doctor (Agir tôt), and see a private speech-language pathologist at the same time if you're worried. In Ontario: Preschool Speech and Language Program, no referral needed. **Losing words or skills?** Consult without waiting.

Sources: Québec health ministry, MSSS, My child is two years old (2022); OOAQ (2022); Naître et grandir (2026); Montreal Children's Hospital (2022); Hanen Centre (2016); Québec.ca, Agir tôt (2026); Ontario.ca (2026). General information: this sheet does not replace an assessment.