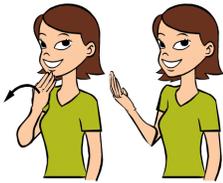


Helping Toddlers Say “Thank You”

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The first, and most important, way to teach little ones: **SHOW THEM by doing it yourself!** When your little one hands you an object, say "thank you". When they help clean up, say "thank you". Look for opportunities to thank them throughout each day.

The specific speech requirements for producing "thank you" accurately are fairly advanced so expect that your little one's first attempts may sound something like: "tay oo" or "dank you" or "kak you". Don't worry so much about the "th" sound... that will come later.



Before your child is talking, **signing** can be a great way to communicate "thank you". Teach your little one to thank others with a gesture (of course smiles and hugs are also great ways to show thanks!)

Photo credit: www.babysignlanguage.com



One of my favorite ways to teach almost any word is through **songs!** Slow the down song to help elongate those vowel sounds, sing it loudly to place emphasis or show excitement, sing quietly to increase attention, or insert the child's name to make it personal. Take any tune you know and change the words to use "thank you" repeatedly!

(Tune: “Happy Birthday”)

“I like to say Thank YOU
I like to say Thank YOU
When I help out my mommy
She likes to say Thank YOU”

(Tune: “Old MacDonald”) – to use with peers and/or other family members present

(Old Mac Donald had a farm, E- I- E- I- O)
When I pick up my toys, my mommy says “Thank you Thank you, (Jack)”
When I help my friend, my friend says “Thank you, Thank you, (Connor)”

TIP: Go around the circle and use the same sentence with each child's/person's name

(Tune: “If You're Happy and You Know It”)

When I get some good food I say Thank You – (clap clap at the same time as repeating “THANK YOU”)
When I get some good food I say Thank You – (clap clap at the same time as repeating “THANK YOU”)
When I get some good food then I'm happy happy happy
When I get some good food I say Thank You - (clap clap at the same time as repeating “THANK YOU”)

*Repeat with: “When you help me out, I say Thank You”
“When you give me a gift, I say Thank You”

*For the FULL article and more ideas about how to help little ones say “thank you”, go to
www.letsplaythespeechandlanguage.com

