

10 Ready-to-Use Time Delay Phrases, Songs & Rhymes

Tips to increase verbal communication with toddlers using fill in the blanks

Phrase	"Fill In" Word	When you can use it...
Ready, set...	GO!	Playing chase, throwing a ball
1, 2, 3...	Any "action" word	Exercising, eating, bathing
Head, shoulders, knees and...	Toes	Singing during bathing, diaper change, dressing
Twinkle, twinkle, little...	Star	Singing at bedtime or in the car
1, 2...	3!	Counting out snacks, counting fingers and toes during bathing or dressing
Time to clean...	Up!	Putting away toys or clothes
Thank...	You.	After giving your child a snack or toy
Bye, bye, butter...	Fly.	Dropping off at childcare, leaving for work
Old MacDonald had a...	Farm. (can also pause for animal name and sound)	Singing during car rides, looking at animal books, waiting for food
Teddy bear, teddy bear, blow out the light, Teddy bear, teddy bear, say good...	Night.	Bedtime, nap time



As children begin to use multiword phrases, you can pause for the child to fill in 2-3 word phrases.

