

# Encouraging First Words Using Exclamations

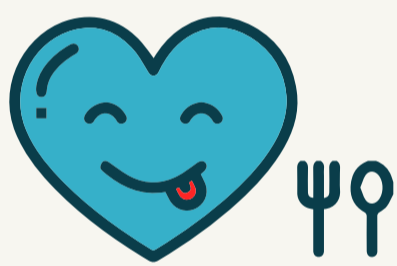
## What are Exclamatory Words?

Exclamatory words are 'fun words' that have lots of expression and sound interesting. These types of words can be a good starting point for children who are not yet using words. Exclamatory words can quickly gain your child's attention and help to engage them in what you are doing. You can use these words both during play and in your daily routines. Of course, continue to model other words as you name and comment on things throughout the day.

## Top Tips

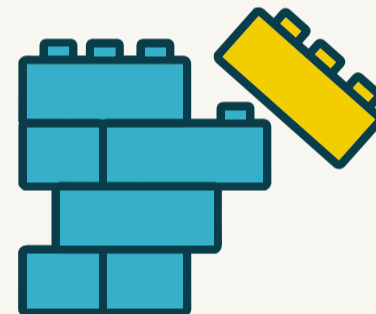
- ★ Use gestures and an animated facial expression as you say the words.
- ★ Repeat the words as part of the verbal routine during play.
- ★ Try not to ask your child to say the words. Instead, pause and give them an opportunity to say the word. If they don't, just model the word again and try again another time.
- ★ Animal, vehicle, and environmental sounds are also good sounds to model.

## Examples of when you could model certain words:



**“Mmmm,”  
“Yummy,” “Yucky”**

during mealtimes or sensory / messy play



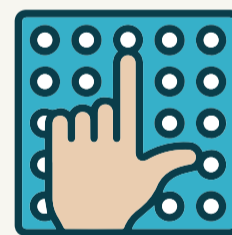
**“Uh oh,” “Oh no,”  
“Whoops”**

when something goes wrong, when knocking down towers of bricks



**“Crash,” “Bang,”  
“Beep”**

during play with cars and other toy vehicles



**“Pop”**

during play with bubbles or when popping bubble wrap



**“Wheee”**

when going down a slide or when on a swing



**“Yippee,” “Wow”**

anytime you are having fun or looking at something interesting



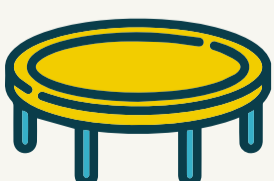
**“Shhh”**

pretend play with dolls, role playing going to sleep



**“Boom”**

when playing a drum or banging hands on the floor or sofa dramatically



**“Boing”**

using a slinky or when jumping on the floor, bed, or a trampoline