Phrases to try at home

ReadySetSay

A one-page sheet for families, to print or keep on your phone

Some children learn language in whole phrases. They may repeat a line from a show, or say a long phrase as if it were one big word. Short, steady phrases, said in everyday moments, give them pieces they can use. Here are some to try.

Seven steady starters The start stays the same; the ending fits the moment.

Let's go…	to the car! · outside! · to the park! · upstairs! · home!
Here comes…	the bus! · the water! · a big one! · the bubbles!
Hello,…	doggy! · Grandma! · park! · bath! · sunshine!
Bye-bye,…	water! · car! · Grandma! · toys! · bubbles!
More…	bubbles! · tickles! · juice! · swinging! · music!
Uh oh,…	it fell! · all wet! · too much! · it broke! · stuck!
Let's make…	a tower! · a sandwich! · a big mess! · a cake! · a train!

For everyday moments

Getting out the door	Let's go… to the car! · Shoes on! · Bye-bye, house!
Meals and snacks	More… crackers! · All done! · Mmm, yummy! · Uh oh… spilled!
Bath and bed	Here comes… the water! · All wet! · Lights off! · Night-night, teddy!
Hard moments	Help me! · Stop! · Too loud! · I need a break!

How to say them

1. **As your child would say it:** "My turn!", "Help me!", not "Your turn!".
2. **When it's happening,** in the same tune each time.
3. **With a tiny pause** before the ending: "Let's go… to the park!"
4. **Then move on.** No need to ask for a repeat. A look, a sound, a sign or a tap all count.

What to skip

- **Questions** ("Do you want more?"). They often come back word for word.
- **"You" phrases** ("You did it!"). Said back, the "you" is the wrong way round.
- **"Say 'more'."** It turns a nice moment into a test.

Get the games

ReadySetSay: calm picture games for iPad and iPhone, for you and your child to play together. They use the same seven starters: a familiar start, a short wait for your child's turn, then a new ending.

Free to download. Three games are free (Rocket Launch, Star Chase and Moon Landing); one Full Access purchase unlocks all 12. No ads, no accounts, no tracking. A toy for playing together, not therapy and not a talking device (AAC).

Scan the code with your phone's camera, or search "ReadySetSay" on the App Store.

No iPad or iPhone? Rocket Launch is free in any web browser: readysetsay.com/play.html

An honest note

Many speech therapists who use the Natural Language Acquisition (NLA) approach suggest short, flexible phrases like these. It is calm, everyday talk, but the approach has not yet been tested in good-quality studies. If your child's speech therapist suggests something different, follow them.

Free to print, copy and share. Full guide with sources: readysetsay.com/phrases-to-model-at-home.html

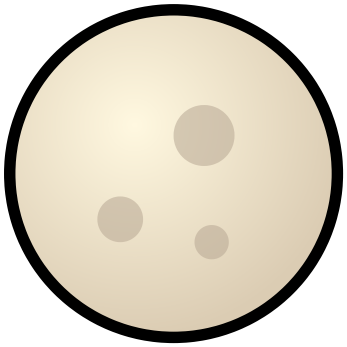
Written by ReadySetSay. We are not speech therapists, and this is not therapy advice. Questions: hello@readysetsay.com

Rocket Launch picture board

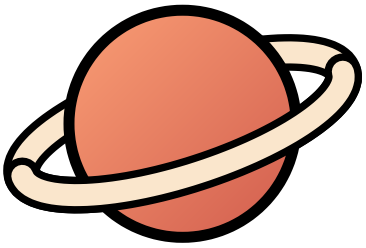
Page two: pictures and phrases from the free Rocket Launch game

ReadySetSay

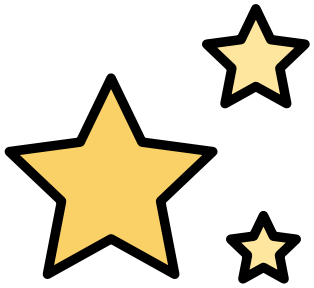
Your child points to or looks at a picture. You say the phrase under it, the same way each time, then wait. If your child uses a talking device, you can say the same words on it alongside.



Let's go...
to the moon!



Let's go...
to the planet!



Let's go...
to the stars!

This is a printable of the Rocket Launch game's pictures and phrases, for a grown-up to model alongside. It is not an AAC system and not therapy advice.

Free to print, copy and share. Play the game free in a web browser: readysetsay.com/play.html