How Many Ways Can You Say _____

Here's Why

A child's voice and body are instruments for helping him communicate his thoughts. Learning to express ideas in different ways helps him master situational language.

Here's How

Start by asking the children to find different ways to say a single word—for example, the word *please*. Then prompt the children to experiment with their voices, For instance: "I wonder what *please* would sound like if you were very, very quiet? Loud? Happy? Sad?"

Encourage the children to use their full range of pitch and body language. For example: "I wonder what *please* sounds like when you're really tall? Or really short? I wonder what *please* sounds like if you're sliding down a slide?" Add silliness: "How does a cow say *please*?"

Other languages are often fascinating to little ones, too. Explain that children in Mexico don't say *please*; they say *por favor*, and in France they say *s'il vous plait*.

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