

Early Intervention Strategies for Teaching Language



FACE TO FACE: Try to be at your child's level so they can see your mouth and face while you are talking.

LABEL: Talk about and label things and actions around you.

- Parent at park: "Look — a slide. Let's go down the slide."



GESTURE: While you say words, try to pair them with a gesture, facial expression or the actual object.

- Waving goodbye; holding hands up to request to be picked up; holding arms apart and saying, "BIG doggy!"



USE SIMPLE LANGUAGE: Mix adult language with short, simple sentences when your child is learning to talk.

- "Small kitten. Kitten is soft."



REPEAT: Say new words often, in different contexts.

- "Get your **red** coat", "I see a **red** car", "let's eat the **red** apple."



WAIT: Give your child time to respond. Try not to fill in words or say what they want to say. They may need time to understand what you said and to think about what to say.



EXPAND: Repeat your child's word with what you think they meant and then add or expand on it.

- Child: "Muh." Parent: "Oh, you want more milk. The milk is cold."



SHARE BOOKS: Read with your child. Label and point to new words and pictures. You don't have to read the exact words from the book. Make up a story to hold their interest or just label the pictures.

- "That's a cow. Cow says *mooo!*"