

Ways to Encourage Speech and Language



TALK, TALK, TALK!

- ☀ Talk about everything
- ☀ Narrate their play
- ☀ Narrate yours and their actions
- ☀ Comment on things in the environment
- ☀ Label items/ actions
- ☀ Engage in conversations
- ☀ Model language whenever possible



Follow Their Lead

- ☀ Imitate the sounds that the person makes and encourage them to imitate you
- ☀ Tune into what the person is interested in
- ☀ Engage in the person's preferred activities, and use as much language as possible
- ☀ Example: If a person loves blocks, play with them and label colours, narrate stacking them, count blocks, prompt them to requests for blocks.



Create Language Opportunities

- ☀ Contrive situations. For example, give the person paper with no marker and ask what they want
- ☀ Take turns during play, and prompt the person to request for items
- ☀ Encourage using language to get what they want
- ☀ Example: you know the person wants a cookie. Hold up a cookie, and encourage the person to use the word, then hand them the cookie.



Pause and Prompt

- ☀ When opportunities for language arise, pause for 3-5 seconds to wait for them to use language
- ☀ If there is no response, model the language to prompt imitation
- ☀ Example: the person has a bowl of soup with no spoon. Hold up a spoon, wait 3-5 seconds. Model saying "spoon."
- ☀ Provide praise for their response or an attempt at saying the word, and provide the item.



Do Activities that Encourage Language

- ☀ Read a variety of books
- ☀ Explain pictures, and provide your own narration
- ☀ Sing songs
- ☀ Read the same books or sing the same songs repeatedly, and encourage them to fill in words