

Make time each day just to talk

Have a set time every day, where the whole family come together and stop everything they are doing and just talk about their day. Make sure everyone has time and opportunity to share what they want to talk about.

ACTIVITIES

- Describe objects to the child and see if they can guess what you are describing. Take it in turns to describe
- Talk about something that you did together.
- Let the child choose the topic of conversation and follow their lead.
- Use everyday objects to have an abstract discussion – eg. a large box, a bus, a plane, etc. Talk about who/what might be in it, where it might be going, etc.
- Create mind-maps of words within different categories (furniture, animals, transport, clothes, hobbies, etc.) to build vocabulary and word meanings.
- Use prompting questions to help focus the child's ideas and help them think of what to say such as "what's happening", "where" and "why?"

Difficulties with Expressive Language

General Strategies



- Give the child **extra time** to express themselves and try to not interrupt.
- **Wait** for the child to ask for something rather than giving it to them before they have had a chance to say themselves.
- **Prompt** them with sequencing words, eg. "and....?" or "because....?"
- Have **visual aids** to help focus the child's ideas and for them to use if they need to.
- Repeat the child's sentence back using the correct structure. Do not make the child repeat the sentence back or highlight it in a negative way.
- Give the child two choices – this gives them the vocabulary but they still need to say something.
- Add extra words to the child's sentences to help develop their expression. Eg. the child says "kick ball", you say "yes, the boy is kicking the ball".
- **Cue** the child by giving the sound the word starts with or a piece of information about the word. For example, for the word "spoon" you could say "you use it to eat pudding with" or say "sp.... spoo....spoon"

