

TIPS FOR BUILDING LANGUAGE AT HOME

Describe Actions

Example: You are jumping or You turned the wheel

Describing the child's action is a way of inputting language without requiring the child to say anything. Emphasize the comment by repeating it.

Point Out What You See

Example: "I see a plane"

Label what you see in your home, community, outside, etc. You want to focus on the object and what the child sees. Make sure to point to the object you are labeling.

Pause and Wait

Once you provide a model (i.e. I see a plane), allow for time for the child to imitate. This may not happen right away and may take longer than expected. You can look at your child to let them know you are waiting for an answer.

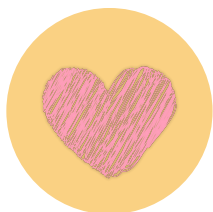
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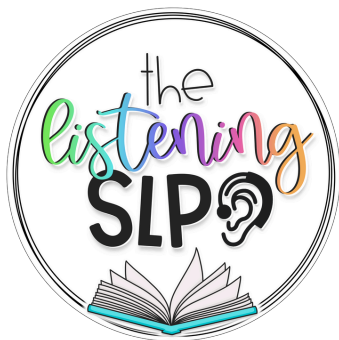
Example: "The wheels on the bus go ..."

When waiting for your child to engage, look at them to let them know you are waiting and want them to say something. Use repetitive songs or books when using this strategy. It provides you with a natural place to pause and look at the child for input.

Be Flexible

Every strategy may not work or may take time before you see improvement. Do not get discouraged if your child does not start using words immediately! The key is to use these strategies consistently!





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hello@thelisteningslp.com



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