

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES IN THE CLASSROOM

Some children struggle to express themselves verbally. The strategies below are useful when supporting children who have expressive language difficulties.

- Always give the child uninterrupted time to think about what they want to say.
- Respond positively to the child's efforts to talk. Praise use of more complex language and comment on the vocabulary used.
- Start a sentence then give the child time to complete it. e.g. "Yesterday you went to..."
- Model to the child the kind of sentence they might use if they could.
- Show you are listening by repeating back to the child what they said, making any necessary minor changes if their sentence had grammatical or content errors, but without drawing attention to these.
- Listen to what the child says and expand on their language, e.g.
 - Child: "it's a green leaf tree"
 - Adult: "the tree has lots of branches and bright green leaves"
- Show the child how to combine information into a single sentence, e.g.
 - Child: "it's big, got green leaves"
 - Adult: "it's a big tree with lots of branches covered in green leaves"
- Provide opportunities for the child to tell and re-tell stories, talk about events and join in with talk in small groups.
- Provide opportunities for the child to negotiate with a partner, work collaboratively and express opinions in a supportive environment.
- If appropriate to the child's age and stage, provide opportunities for the child to reason aloud, solve problems, make predictions, compare items, talk about their feelings and talk about causes and consequences. Use modelling and thinking out loud to show how this is done.



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