



## Top Tips to help children with expressive language

- ☑ Start with good listening skills. A poster approach can act as a reminder
- ☑ Use symbols to illustrate ground rules, e.g. “Put your hand up when you want to talk.”
- ☑ Give the child time to say what they mean. If you don’t have time promise to talk to them later (and keep the promise)
- ☑ Model correct sentences for the child rather than correcting mistakes and without asking them for a report
- ☑ Give forced alternatives, e.g. Did you go with Mama (Grandma) or Mummy?
- ☑ Use prompts to help with word finding, e.g. “Tell me something about it”, “Can you show me?”
- ☑ Don’t expect a child to write a longer sentence than they would say, e.g. if they don’t say “because” when explaining they are unlikely to use it in written work
- ☑ Use role reversal within an activity. If you model what you would like the child to do and then swap roles. Encourage the child to be the teacher and tell you what to do.
- ☑ Use sabotage! Set up situations where the child has to make some form of comment or request, e.g. ask the child to colour a picture and provide broken crayons
- ☑ Encourage any means of communication, e.g. eye-contact, gesture, pointing, pictures
- ☑ Start a sentence for the child to finish, e.g. “I am sitting on a big chair and you are sitting on a ...”
- ☑ Repeat what the child has said with a bit added, e.g. Child “Mama caravan” Adult “You went to Mama’s caravan.”