

# Be a Good Speech Model

Ricki Block, MS, CCC-SLP



1. You are the model for your child's speech. Therefore, it is important that you are face to face with your child, speak clearly, simply and slowly. Use complete sentences when speaking, but keep them simple. If child doesn't say a word right, don't criticize speech. Simply stress the word again pronouncing it correctly as a model. Always repeat what is said, stressing your sounds.

2. Learn to expand the phrases your child says. When child uses only 1 word, expand the sentence to 2 words. When he/she uses 2 words, expand the sentences to 3 words and so forth. Then add another sentence to complete the thought.

Ex. child says "car" ... adult says "car in"..... adult also says "put the car in"

Don't expect your child to repeat you right away. He/she may need to hear things said over and over again before phrase is repeated.

3. Give child time to respond. Child may need time to process the words before repeating them. Listen to what child says and respond back.

4. Read to your child every day. Talk about the pictures in the book and let child talk too. Sing songs with your child.

5. Give your child a chance to make decisions so he/she will want to talk. Encourage child to ask for what he/she wants. If there is no response, get face to face and say the response slowly in a short phrase. Avoid telling him to "Say \_\_\_\_." Giving a choice of 2 items helps too, e.g. "Do you want \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?"

6. Parallel talk is when you talk out loud about what your child is doing, seeing or feeling at the moment. This process will help him learn that there are words to label any object, feeling or action. Help him learn new vocabulary every day.

7. Modeling techniques:

a. Imitation – child imitates what you say

b. Correction – repeat your child's words stressing correct production

c. Fill-in – Start a sentence and let your child finish it. For example, while setting the table count the forks.....1 fork, 2 \_\_\_\_\_, 3 \_\_\_\_\_

e. Expansion – Repeat your child's words and add an additional sentence to describe the thought. For ex. child says, "big dog".....adult says "The dog is big and brown.

f. Extension – After the child makes a comment, include new or different information. For ex. child says, "I'm drinking juice".....adult says, "yes, you are drinking apple juice. Apple juice is made from apples. Apples grow on trees."