

## Increasing Your Child's Verbal Communication Skills

### A Parent's Guide

A child's first teacher is their parent and as their first teacher, you can help them to be ahead of the game, simply by talking to your child. Engaging in conversation with your child is the key to their success! When you talk to your child, you are providing them with more opportunities for language and expanding their vocabulary. Here is a list of some techniques that you can easily incorporate into your routines to encourage and develop your child's language. Please keep in mind that a child may not always respond, however, that doesn't mean that they aren't listening.

- **Talk it out.** Talk with your child about the activities that you both engage in throughout the day. If you are outside, you can talk about the sounds you hear and the things that you are passing by. "Do you hear the birds chirping?" "Wow that was a loud car!"
- **Expand your child's comments.** Expanding your child's utterances can expose them to more language. If your child says "plane", you can expand that with "A blue plane."
- **Repeat and repeat some more.** Children learn best through repetition. Often, they ask you to repeat a funny sound or a word/phrase because they enjoyed how it sounded, but also because they want to imitate it. Be sure to repeat your words/phrases to increase their exposure.

