

Speech and Language at CVS

Strategies to Elicit Communication from your Child at Home:

1. Encourage your child to **request** items during all daily activities. For example, if it is lunch time, refrain from giving your child their desired food or drink item until they verbally or gesturally request it.
2. **Read** books with your child. Ask questions about what's happening and/or encourage them to name or point to certain pictures as you go.
3. Listen to/sing repetitive songs together; **music** is powerful!
4. Parallel Talk – If your child is playing, narrate/talk the child through what he or she is doing. Consider yourself the “play-by-play” announcer. This is great language exposure and can help to build upon spoken language.
5. Expansions – If your child says something, try to verify what they said and then add more details.
6. Communicative Temptations – Attempt to put your child in a situation where they are tempted to communicate through verbalizing or gesturing. For example, you might purposely put something you know your child wants out of their reach, or withhold something from them until they **request** it.
7. Pausing – Give your child **wait-time** to process and respond to what you are saying.
8. Joint Attention - Use gestures and eye gaze to focus on/give attention to the same item your child is focusing on. Then be sure to talk about it as you are both attending to it.

