



Intervention Speech Tips for Parents

Create a Language-Rich Environment

- **Talk Throughout Your Day:** Narrate your daily routines (e.g., "Now I am **washing** your hair," or "We are **stirring** the soup") and describe what you are doing, looking at, or playing with at the moment.
 - **Model Clear Language:** Speak in clear, simple sentences, using a natural conversational tone. Be a **role model** for proper pronunciation and grammar.
 - **Be Face-to-Face:** Get down to your child's level, making eye contact during play and story time. This helps them develop social skills and see your mouth movements and encourages reciprocal play.
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Respond and Expand

- **Follow Your Child's Lead:** Watch what they are doing and then copy their actions, sounds, or words, and comment on them. Refrain from directing the play.
 - **Expand and Extend:** Repeat what your child says and add one or two words to it. This models language that is slightly above their current level .
 - *If your child says: "Ball."*
 - *You can say: "**Red** ball," or "Ball **bounce**."*
 - **Comment, Don't Quiz:** Limit asking too many questions, especially those that test their knowledge. Instead, **comment** on what they are doing (parallel talk) or what you are doing (self-talk).
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Encourage Communication Attempts

- **Pause and Wait:** After you ask a question, offer a choice, or make a comment, **pause and wait expectantly** for your child to respond. Give them time to listen, process, and try to reply.
 - **Offer Choices:** When possible, ask questions that give them a choice to encourage interaction and language use, such as, "Do you want an **apple** or a **banana**?"
 - **Use Communication Temptations:** Structure the environment so your child is motivated to communicate with you to get something they want (sometimes called "sabotage").
 - Place a favorite toy in a clear, hard-to-open container.
 - Give them a snack but "forget" the drink.
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General Tips

- **Make it Play-Based:** Use games, songs, and engaging activities to practice communication. Play is how children learn best.
- **Read Regularly:** You don't have to read every word; talk about the colorful pictures and ask your child to point to or name objects.
- **Be Patient and Encouraging:** Celebrate all communication attempts, big or small! Positive reinforcement boosts their confidence.
- **Collaborate with Your Therapist:** Maintain open communication with your speech therapist. Share observations from home, ask questions, and attend sessions when possible to learn the techniques.

For more information visit www.happyplacespeech.com to download the handout.

