

Tips for Interacting with Children

Wait

& Listen

It is extremely important to give the student an opportunity to initiate language/communication and respond. Pay close attention to what the student is trying to say and let them know that



Modelling

This occurs when you model language using appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures. It is important to emphasise key words and repeat what you say and do. If the student says “He felled over the log”, you could say “Yes, he fell over the log”.



Imitation

This occurs when you ask the student to imitate what you say. This is a useful strategy to use if the student makes an error in their sentence. By using this strategy you can ask the student to repeat what they were attempting to say with the appropriate words or grammatical markers. This technique has been suggested to aid in increasing the amount in which the student talks, which has also been associated with the acceleration of language development (Sachs, 1983).

Expanding & Extending

This occurs when you expand and extend the student’s response to add additional information or grammatical markers. For example, if the student says “the dog inside”, you could expand and extend their sentences and respond “yes, the dog is inside the house” or “the big brown dog is inside the house”.