



# Talk 2 Me

Preschool Speech and Language ~ Early Identification ~ Intervention ~ Education

Phone: (519) 252-0636 Email: [info@smflc.ca](mailto:info@smflc.ca) Web: [connectwithus.ca](http://connectwithus.ca)

Connections Early Years Family Centre

Children First

John McGivney Children's Centre

Activity or routine that is enjoyable:  Dressing  Bathtime  Snacktime/Meals  
 Singing Songs/Games  Bedtime  Playtime  Other routines

My child will (goal): \_\_\_\_\_

I will help my child do this by (strategies): Check all the strategies that apply below.

## Early Language Strategies

- Get **face to face** and watch to see what your child is interested in to encourage interaction
- Observe, Wait, Listen** (first turn, more turns, enjoyable turns):
  - Observe** how your child reacts or sends messages, and what they are interested in.
  - Wait up to 5 seconds** to give your child a chance to start the interaction by saying or doing something.
  - Listen** for anything your child might say.
- Create opportunities for your child to lead.** Set up the Situation by:
  - Show then wait- show your child a desired object and wait for them to request
  - Creative stupidity- forget to do something or give your child a necessary object and wait for them to respond (e.g. forget to give your child a spoon for cereal)
  - Bit by bit-give small portions of a snack, keep the pieces of a toy and wait for your child to request more
  - Hard to operate-give your child items that you know they will need your help with (e.g. wind-up toys, a plastic container with a toy inside)
- Follow your child's lead by:**
  - joining in the play** and using objects/activities that will motivate them
  - imitating** what the child says and does. You can play a copy cat game. Use a mirror so your child can see their face and yours. Imitate sounds/facial expressions that your child makes. Slowly introduce new sounds/facial expressions so your child will copy you. Start with any sounds your child can already make such as: \_\_\_\_\_. Then add new fun sounds such as: oh-oh, mmmm, boo, wow, beep-beep etc. Also try new animal sounds and fun words.
  - interpreting** your child's gestures/pointing and give them the word(s) they would say- "Say it like he would if he could!!"
  - using **COMMENTS** instead of questions! Comments increase opportunities for your child to imitate

Adapted from It Takes Two To Talk-The Hanen Program for Parents of Children with Language Delays

[www.hanen.org](http://www.hanen.org)

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- Match your turns to your child's turns.** Keep your turns short and focus on what your child is interested in.
- Cue your child's turn:**
  - wait expectantly
  - give a visual helper, like a gesture... and wait
  - ask a question...and wait. Try not to ask too many questions or questions that are conversation stoppers.
- Use questions and comments to continue the conversation:**
  - ask questions related to your child's topic of interest
  - ask questions the child can answer
  - balance questions with comments
- Use appropriate language models:**
  - Talk about what is happening at that moment
  - Avoid non-specific words (e.g. this, that).
  - Increase vocabulary by talking during everyday routines (e.g. bath time, cooking dinner, doing laundry, getting dressed etc.). Focus on a variety of simple key words such as actions (eat, drink, sleep), and location words (up, on, in).
- Expand** by listening to what your child says, repeat it and add just one word
- Highlight language** by talking slowly, and using gestures. Be animated! Be enthusiastic and entertaining by using lots of facial expressions and using increased intonation in your voice. Make communication fun!
- Repeat! Repeat!** Children need to hear a word at least 20 times in context before they may try it.
- Build your child's understanding** of the world by using comments and questions to talk about the past, or future, explain things, talk about feelings, talk about pretending/imagining, and to describe, compare and contrast things.

When I used the strategy, my child: \_\_\_\_\_

It was easy for me to: \_\_\_\_\_

It was hard for me to: \_\_\_\_\_

**I will remember to do this by:** \_\_\_\_\_