



How to Use Early Language Strategies at Home

1. **Snack/Meal Time**-Use 'bit by bit' strategy

- Give your child only a few pieces (a few goldfish, few grapes etc.)
- Wait for your child to communicate to you that they want more (could be eye contact, a gesture/pointing, a sound or reaching etc.)
- MODEL the word you want your child to imitate (fish/cracker, grape, more) and WAIT 3-5 seconds to see if your child will take a turn/imitate the word, then try repeating "fish" 2-3 times before giving more fish. Be sure to wait each time to give your child the opportunity to imitate your word.

2. **Play Time**- Use 'follow your child's lead' strategy

- Get face to face with your child
- Get your own toys and Imitate what your child is doing, then try adding a few new words by modeling (e.g. "beep-beep", "up", "down", "fast", "go" etc.)
- MODEL the word, then pause and wait 3-5 seconds to see if your child will take a turn/or try to imitate you model, then repeat this interaction with modelling a few times

3. **Bath Time**- Model functional words during this routine

- "Off"- Take pieces of clothing off one at a time and model the word "off" just before you take it off, wait 3-5 seconds between clothing items to see if your child will take a turn/try to imitate
- "In"- Model the word "in" as you put bubbles, toys and child into the bathtub.
- "Wash"- While washing, Model "wash", pause during washing and wait 3-5 seconds to see if your child will take a turn/imitate, then repeat the word "wash" during the interaction a few times
- "Splash"- While splashing, Model "splash", pause and wait 3-5 seconds to see if your child will take a turn/imitate, then repeat word and the interaction a few times

***Any time your child is communicating by pointing or using jargon:

- Interpret what you think your child is trying to say, it may take a few guesses, but your child will let you know when you got it right!
- Model the target word up to 3 times, waiting 3-5 seconds between each model to see if your child will take a turn/imitate.

HELPFUL HINTS: Have fun! Children learn best when they are enjoying the activity!

OWL: Observe, Wait and Listen to begin an interaction and then follow your child's lead

Taking a Turn: Your child can take a turn in many ways (verbal or non-verbal) such as imitating a word model, or making a sound (verbal), eye contact, gesture or pointing (non-verbal)

Waiting: Wait expectantly by leaning in, making eye contact, looking excited for your child to take a turn

Model: Go slow and highlight a key word, repeat it a few times during the activity/interaction, WAIT after each model