

Language Practice

- **Expressing** words: Help your child increase his or her verbal expression by **building** on any words that he uses. Example: If your child requests juice by saying “juice,” build on the word by creating a phrase for him to imitate (“More juice,” “my juice,” “juice please”). This can also be done by adding descriptive words. Example: “ball” > “big ball,” “dog” > “white dog.”
- If your child is currently communicating in signs, gestures, sounds, pointing, etc., without many spoken words, provide a brief verbal comment to go along with what he/she is attempting to communicate. *Example:* Child points to cup, Parent says, “Cup, You want the cup? Here is the cup.” Helping to build exposure to vocabulary and sentence formation.
- If your child has trouble imitating a phrase or sentence, add in **actions** for each word in the phrase—clapping, tapping, and/or stomping for each word. For “white dog,” you would clap/stomp twice—a clap while you say “white” and when you say “dog.” Have the child imitate the phrase with the clapping action. You can also **draw** a circle on a piece of paper for each word of the phrase and have the child tap each circle as she says the words.

