

## Language Facilitation Techniques

The following techniques can help facilitate your child's ongoing language development. Many of these techniques can be used at any age!

- Observing your child to follow their lead: children will be more likely to talk about something they are interested in.
  - Pausing – allow time for your child to respond
- Take turns to keep the interaction going: make a comment on what they are doing or something that has caught their attention. Allow a chance for them to respond or add further information.
- Sabotage the environment! E.g. Purposefully put favourite items out of reach so that they have to ask for them.
- Add language to the interaction
  - Self talk: talking about what you are doing
  - Parallel talk: talking about what your child is doing
  - Expansion: putting the child's one or two word utterances into a grammatically correct phrase e.g. want drink – you want a drink
  - Extension: adding more information to your child's phrase e.g. Look at ball – look at the big pink ball
  - Choices: Offering meaningful controlled choices to force a verbal response e.g. do you want vegemite or peanut butter?
  - Repetition, repetition, repetition: Before the age of 15 mths children generally need to hear a word approx 500 times before they can say it. However after this time their ability to produce words is dependent on their interest in the situation or environment, the context, the amount of emotion behind the word or statement (think: swearing adult & repeating child!) and the person saying it.
- Asking questions to develop language: But be careful to avoid tester mode! Provide 3 comments to every question you ask.