INCREASING LANGUAGE

Support Communication

- _Wait Time:_ Pause after speaking; give child time to respond.
- _Respond to Cues:_ Notice and respond to verbal/non-verbal signals (e.g. pointing, gesturing, grabbing/reaching).
- _Celebrate All Communication:_ Praise any form of communication (words, gestures, sounds).

Modeling Language

- _Self-Talk:_ Describe what you are doing.
- _Parallel-Talk:_ Describe what your child is doing or what you're doing alongside them.
- _Speak from Child's Perspective:_ "I want the cookie!" instead of "You want the cookie!"

Expanding Language

- _Labeling:_ Name objects/actions your child is focused on.
- _Expand & Extend:_ Add 1+ words to what your child says. E.g., child: "dog" → you: "big dog!"
- _Use Full Sentences:_ Gradually model more complex language structures.

Creating Opportunities

- _Tempt Communication:_ Play with toys or use objects that require interaction or that a child needs help to use
- _2-Time Rule:_ Model action with words twice, then wait.
- _Use Prompts:_ If needed, give sound cue (e.g., "b-" for "ball").

Speech-Language Pathology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Paediatric Language, Learning, & Speech
PedLLS
Outcomes Lab