



LANGUAGE STIMULATION

TIPSHEET-2: EXPANSION

What is it? Expansion or “adding on” simply means adding on to what your child has just said. By expanding or adding on to your child's language, you are helping them to not only learn new words, but you are also showing them how to put words together.

What's involved? Expanding your child's language involves you repeating back and confirming what your child has said to you, and then adding more words to it. For example your child might say “dog” and you might say, “yes big dog” or “yes dog running” By repeating and confirming what your child has said, and then expanding on this, you are helping your child increase their vocabulary and learn how a variety of words can be put together.

Good times to use Expansion: This technique should be used wherever and whenever you can. It is an excellent technique for increasing vocabulary and extending sentence length. There are many words which you can use to expand and extend your child's language. For example for the word “dog”, you can use:

***Describing words** (eg. colour; speed; size)

-“black dog”; -“slow dog”; -“big dog”

***Action words** (eg. verbs)

-“dog running”; -“dog barking”; “go dog”

***Location words** (eg. direction; position)

-“dog in house”; “dog jumping over”; “dog on mat”

REMEMBER: When using expansion, it is important to ensure that you do not overload your child with too many words. Ensure that the number of words you are using are appropriate to the number of words (length of phrase) your child is capable of understanding. (See tipsheet-4 Language simplification)

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