



10 Strategies for Increasing Your Child's Language at Home

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Open Up Your Child's World

At SPACE, we believe that being able to communicate effectively opens up a child's world. Language is crucial for improving social skills, self-esteem, academic success, and cognitive development. It's also the basis for learning to read and write.

Is your child struggling with language development?

Challenges might include:

- Doesn't respond to their name, expressions or gestures
- Academic comprehension or grammar
- Cognitive or social language challenges post-injury
- Auditory information
- Understanding words & gestures
- Building friendships
- Flexible thinking
- Late talker
- Eye contact problems

Even if your child isn't speaking yet, you can improve language skills right at home.

Here are ten recommended strategies for increasing your child's use and understanding of language at home.



10 ways to Increase Language at Home:

1 - Wait, wait and wait! Before offering to help your child open a cup, grab a book from the shelf or open the door to go outside, pause, and allow your child to initiate and ask you for help. They may use eye gaze, point, a sound or even a word when you give them the opportunity to ask.

2 - Offer choices throughout the day. What color shirt should we pick? What should we make for dinner?

3 - Model simple words and objects. When naming an object, bring it close to your mouth so your child can focus on the object and what your mouth is doing.

4 - Narrate actions throughout the day to provide a language rich environment



5 - Utilize books every day! Ask your child to point to objects, identify people, places and things, and answer questions after reading a page.

6 - Integrate singing and nursery rhymes into your daily routine. The repetition of songs allows your child to participate by imitating movement, vocalizing and singing parts of the songs.

7 - Play and interact face to face to allow your child to focus on what your mouth is doing during speech, to read your nonverbal facial expressions, and to increase engagement.

8 - Play hide and seek or go on a scavenger hunt throughout the house! These are both fun ways to practice familiar phrases such as “ready or not, here I come” or practice prepositions or attributes such as “Look **BEHIND** the couch” or “**IN** the **BLUE** pot.”



9 - **Make a photo album together!**

Print pictures of family, friends and pets and integrate names of people, places and events. To make it more difficult, don't forget to add conjunctions, adjective verbs and other targets.

10 - **Practice reciprocity and keep the communication going.**

If your child asks for a drink. Ask what kind? How much? If your child makes a sound, imitate them and see if they will take their turn next. How many times can you make back and forth sounds? This is great speech practice and also good for back and forth engagement that is necessary for conversation.



Communication is more than just speech. Even if your child isn't talking yet, they can learn and develop language skills from these simple activities.

And don't worry too much if your child isn't speaking yet or doesn't respond right away to these prompts. All children learn at different rates, and each child's unique needs and abilities should be taken into consideration when teaching communication skills.

However, if your child struggles with talking to others, building relationships, making eye contact, or doesn't respond to or understand their name, expressions, or gestures, speech therapy may be right for your family.

Our speech pathologists work to get to know your child and the whole family - so we can discover and follow the best path to success.

**Communication
is more than
just speech!**



Contact SPACE today to see how we can help your child **unlock their potential!**

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**(713) 522-
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