



Building Language

Techniques for language partners to facilitate improving comprehension and eliciting language in new language learners*.



SOUL Stop, Observe, Understand, Listen

Following the child's lead shows you are ready to respond meaningfully.



Mirror nonverbal imitation of the child

If the child claps their hands, you clap your hands. This also shows turn taking.



Self-Talk narrating your own actions

"I am squeezing some dish soap on to the sponge so I can wash the dirty plate. Now it is all clean!"



Parallel Talk narrating their actions; add emotions

"I see that you are smiling at the sky! Do you feel happy? The sun feels so nice and warm on my skin!"



Expansion

recast and add to the child's phrase

A child's phrase of "doggy big" can be expanded to "That is a very big doggy with short grey fur and a long tail!"



Model

expands without using the child's words while continuing to maintain the topic

If a child says "doggy big" model "We walk on two feet, but some animals walk on four feet called paws."



VMR Vocal (Manual), Monitoring and Reflecting repeat the child's phrase back to them

Repeat, "Doggy big!" back to the child, mirroring their body language and intonation.



* This refers to young children and others newly learning language.

