

# GROWING LANGUAGE: strategies for early language learners

## Out of Reach

Place desired items in clear bins & on shelves so your child can see them, but they are out of reach. This will inspire requests from your child with a gesture, a vocalization or by pointing to a core vocabulary word (e.g., 'want', 'open', 'more').



## Fill in the Blanks

Verbal routines are phrases that are repeated by an adult often so that the child can eventually "fill in the missing part" of the message (e.g., "Ready, set \_") You can also do this with songs- "Old McDonald had a \_\_\_\_"



## Make Them Look

Always communicate face to face, and at eye level so that your child sees your mouth move as you talk.

Use a mirror to encourage your child to imitate movements and speech sounds.



## Get Down & Play

Always follow your child's lead. Join in play & sit face to face. Bring preferred toys to your mouth as you model words.

Model key social skills during play such as taking turns, waiting & asking questions. Model use of toys and using words in a meaningful way during play.



## Narrate Everything

In order for children to use language, they need ongoing exposure to words & sentences. By describing what the child is doing, or what you are doing, you are adding words to actions and modelling how words are put together to form ideas. For example, "I am hungry. I am eating a big apple."



## Fill Their Backpacks

Fill their backpacks with vocabulary by labelling the objects in your child's environment. Label nouns and action words. To create sentences, you need your child to have knowledge of both nouns and verbs. e.g., "Ball is rolling"



## Model, Model Model

Repeat what your child says, but say it again correctly, emphasizing the corrected sound or word.

Model up: Extend what your child says to help grow their messages. For example, child says: "ball", & adult says, "ball down".

