A ***Word***from Your Speech Therapists...

**Ways to Encourage Receptive Language Development**

* Teach your child to imitate actions including clapping your hands, blowing kisses and playing games such as Pat-a-Cake, Peek-a-Boo and Itsy Bitsy Spider.
* Read to your child. Sometimes "reading" is simply labeling the pictures in a book without following the written words. Choose books that have large colorful pictures.
* Expand your child's vocabulary. Help your child to identify body parts, clothing items, grocery items, and photographs of familiar places or things. Use phrases such as "Show me", "Point to" or "Touch".

**Reading Aloud and Language Development**

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Sitting and reading aloud with your child is a great way to work on improving receptive and expressive language skills. Children learn through repetition so it's okay to read your child's favorite books over and over.

\*If a book is too long, wordy or has higher-level vocabulary, paraphrase or comment on pictures so it's easier for your child to understand.

\* Depending on your child's level of understanding, ask yes/no and "wh"-questions (what, what doing, where, who, why) after each page or event and as you point to pictures. You can stick with just one type of question to target as you look at the pictures (Where is the boy? Where is the ball? Where is the dog?).

\* See if your child can retell the story by looking at the pictures. Help him or her along by modeling language at your child's level.

\*While reading, label pictures of NOT only objects and animals, etc. but also ACTIONS. Use the actions in phrases and sentences.

\*Make your own books with magazine pictures of animals, food, actions and comment about the pictures (for example, brown bear, I see a bear, I see a brown bear, the brown bear is eating).

\* Make your own book with photos of family outings, special occasions and trips. Use above suggestions to talk about the photos.

The most important thing is to have FUN with your child!!!!! For more suggestions specific to your child's level of functioning, speak with his or her speech therapist.

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A speech therapist had two boys in a group. One little boy was telling his speech therapist and another little boy, ''I'm not 3 anymore". When his speech therapist asked, "How old are you?" He replied, "I'm 10". The other little boy looked confused and said, "You're really small"