

Books

Reading books with your child will increase their exposure to more language and gives you quality time with your tamariki to build relationships. You don't have to read stories word-for-word, but can label pictures and key words.

Children that read 1 book every day are exposed to 290.000 more words by the time that are 5! Wow!

Offer Choices

Offer choices between objects, or the order in which your child eats or completes activities. Offering choices increases the labelling of objects and gives your child more opportunities to communicate with you.

'Do you want the apple or the banana?' - 'Do you want to get dressed or eat breakfast first?'

Wait for it...!

Pause and wait during motivating activities and game to encourage your child to do 'a little bit more' to communicate with you.

Use expectant pauses. Wow look! A...CAT! - Use Ready, Steady, GO routines during motivating activities and pause to encourage your child to communicate 'GO!' - Wait before giving your child an item to encourage them to communicate more for that item.

Songs and Actions

Songs are a great way to teach vocabulary and signs/gestures. The tune and rhythm of music can be a motivating way to encourage language and action songs give us a fun way to learn what words mean.

Reduce your Language

Try to reduce your language to help your child hear and learn the important words. It's good to use sentences to comment during play, but use single words when interpreting and modelling what your child might be saying.

Overall, try to use less speech when modelling language for your child.