

Ways to Support Oral Language Deficits



The following are general suggestions that parents and teachers can use to support oral language development in all children.

Interactive Storytelling and Reading

Read Aloud: Regularly read books with expressive voices and discuss the stories.

Story Retelling: Encourage the child to retell stories in their own words, focusing on sequencing and details. Provide modeling and scaffolding.

Vocabulary Development

Explicit Teaching: Introduce new words with visuals, definitions, and examples. Make connections between new vocabulary and previously learned words and concepts.

Word Games: Play word games to make learning fun. Focus on games that encourage children to use descriptive language (such as *Guess Who*, *Pictionary Jr.*, and *Hedbanz*) or to explore words by finding common features and semantic relationships (such as *Wordplay for Kids!*, *Scattergories Junior*, and *TriBond Kids*).

Grammar and Sentence Structure

Model Correct Grammar: Consistently use correct grammar and sentence structure.

Sentence Expansion: Practice expanding simple sentences by adding details.

Listening Skills

Active Listening Activities: Engage in games like Simon Says and follow multi-step directions.

Listening Comprehension: Discuss what was heard and ask questions to ensure understanding.

Expressive Language

Conversation Practice: Have regular conversations, encouraging full expression of thoughts.

Role-Playing: Use role-playing to practice conversational skills in different contexts.

Speech-Language Therapy

Professional Support: Work with a speech-language pathologist for individualized assessment and intervention.

Therapeutic Techniques: Follow specific exercises recommended by the therapist to target language deficits.

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