



Imitating & Expanding with Children Who Use Gestures & Sounds

Ideas for Repeating Back & Adding New Information During Activities



Play

- Imitate the sounds children make while playing so the child is more likely to make more sounds. As long as the child is making sounds, keep imitating those sounds.
Child: "Ma ma ma."
Caregiver: (while smiling and making eye contact) "Ma ma ma."
- Give ideas while playing dolls and listen and respond when a child makes sounds.
Caregiver: "Baby is going to sleep."
Child: "Ba."
Caregiver: "Yes, baby is going to sleep."
- Finger paint together and imitate by saying the colors the child points to.
Child: (points to green)
Caregiver: "You want green paint."



Daily Routines

- Talk about what is happening during diaper change. Listen and respond to the child.
Caregiver: "It's time to change your diaper."
Child: "Dah"
Caregiver: "Yes, time to change your diaper."
- Watch for children to reach for or point at feeding items. Model how to ask for things.
Child: (reaches for bottle)
Caregiver: (while giving child bottle) "Milk, please."
- While playing outside, watch for children to sign words. Imitate and expand with signs.
Child: (claps hands together in an attempt to sign "ball")
Caregiver: (signs) "Ball, that's a red ball."



Books

- Be responsive when a child comes to you with a book.
Child: (holding book) "buh."
Caregiver: "Book. You want to read this book about dogs." (reads with child)
- While looking at books, respond when children point to pictures by imitating and providing new information.
Child: (points to a dog) "Woo woo."
Caregiver: "Woof woof. That's what the dog says."
- Be responsive when a child is ready to move on to the next page of a book.
Child: "Mah" (tries to turn page)
Caregiver: "More - Let's see what's next." (turns page)

Imitate & Expand

Imitate a child's vocalizations or words back to the child, and expand by adding new information or words.

