LANGUAGE STIMULATION TECHNIQUES

HOW TO STIMULATE LANGUAGE:

Language is learned best through practice and repetition. Set up opportunities for oral language practice whenever possible throughout the day. In addition, the following language stimulation techniques can be used in everyday situations to encourage vocabulary development and to teach specific grammatical structures. They should be used consistently and immediately after a child's utterance. By using the following techniques, you are telling the child that you are interested in what he/she is saying while providing a model of an utterance that is grammatically correct and is clearer and more complex. You may find that the child repeats your language models, but do not insist upon this.

1. **Modelling**. Repeat the child's utterance using correct grammar and/or vocabulary, exaggerating the structures or words that you're adding

   e.g., Child:　　　　　　"They make funny face together.
   　　　 Parent/Teacher:　"You're right. They made funny faces at each other!"

2. **Expansion**. Add a few more words and/or information to the child's utterance.

   e.g., Child:　　　　　　"Bus leaving."
   　　　 Parent/Teacher:　"The bus is leaving."
   　　　 Child:　　　　　　"We saw police."
   　　　 Parent/Teacher:　"Yes, we saw a policeman who taught us about safety."

3. **Revision**. When responding to the child, provide a more organized utterance, where the meaning is clear to the listener.

   e.g., Child:　　　　　　"The two guys had money and otherwise he didn't have money." Teacher/Parent:　"It's a good thing his friends had money because he didn't have any. Otherwise he would not have been able to buy his lunch."

4. **Offering Choices** between the incorrect versus the correct

   structure. e.g.,　　　Child:　　"Him was so funny!"
   　　　　　　Teacher/Parent:　"Is it, 'Him was so funny' or 'He was so funny'?"

* For specific vocabulary and grammatical structures to target, please refer to
   Communication For Learning Tip Sheet entitled
   Improving Expressive Language: Vocabulary and Grammatical Types