



MATCHING AND EXPANDING LANGUAGE

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Why is it important?

- Some children who have difficulty processing and understanding lots of language, benefit from language being reduced to key words.
- This means they can hear the key words straight away rather than having to pick through the other parts of a sentence to find them.
- Children who have good understanding but difficulties with their own expressive (spoken) language, benefit from us reducing language too.
- This means they get lots of models and examples of language they might be able to recreate – eg they won't yet be able to copy you saying 'we're going to the park so we need to put shoes on', but they may be able to start to copy 'shoes on' when you say this to them.
- It helps if children know which are the key words so they can start to understand and use them.
- For example:

'The big spotty dog's jumping up high'

Versus

'Dog's jumping'



Expanding language

- Expanding your child's language means praising and rewarding what they are doing already, but showing them the next steps to make it even better!
- For example:
 - If they use a **noise**, give them the **word**.
eg Child – *woof* Adult – *yes, dog*
 - If they use **one** word, show them **two**
eg Child – *dog* Adult – *yes, big dog / brown dog / dog jumping*
 - If they use **two** words, show them **three**
eg Child – *dog jump* Adult – *yes, big dog jumping / dog jumping high*
 - And so on!
- You can expand a **range** of different words
eg Labels *'dog'* Actions *'jumping'* Descriptions *'fluffy'*