

Highlight Your Language

When you imitate your child's words, add a new word, or make a comment about something that your child is interested in, highlight your language. Highlighting means adding a little more emphasis to new and important words,

- Use simple words and sentences
- Emphasize new or important words by saying them a little louder and holding them for a little longer. Pause a little before the word. For example, you could say "That's a...BIIIG cookie." or "...we all fall.....DOWN!"
- Be animated!
- Slow down, but pause naturally between words and sentences. Using a slower rate of speech makes it easier for your child to focus on a new word and maybe copy them
- Use gestures. Say the word and make the gestures (or use a picture of the word) at the same time. For example, when you say "all gone", raise your hands with your palms pointed upward. If you say "bye", wave good bye. This extra information helps your child learn and understand new words.
- Repeat, repeat, repeat! Children needs to hear a word repeatedly to understand the meaning and before the child will attempt to say it.

Highlighting your language will help your child learn and use these new words.