

# Teach and Talk:

## *Helping Parents Improve Children's Communication Skills*



Adapted from MERRILY Model by Paulette Y. Robinson



# TEACH AND TALK: HELPING PARENTS IMPROVE CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION SKILLS

## Modeling:

Being a role model for your child to imitate.

## Why Does it Work?

*Modeling* gives your child a good example of how to become a better communicator.

## What do You do?

*Have the child pick something he/she wants to do. Model to the child some phrases you want him/her to learn.*

### Example:

**Adult:** *"This is a red ball.  
You say it."*

**Child:** *"This is a red ball."*

Let's Practice!

Activity 1: I Do

Activity 2: We Do

Activity 3: You Do



## Ideas for using Modeling at Home

<b>Morning</b>	Breakfast	
	Getting Dressed	
	Brushing Teeth/Hair	
<b>Afternoon</b>	Lunch	
	Driving	
	Playtime	
<b>Night</b>	Dinner	
	Night routine	

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## Expansion:

helping your child improve his/her words, understanding or actions by building and adding to the vocabulary they already know

## Why Does it Work?

*Expansion* gives your child the ability to be exposed to new vocabulary in situations they are already familiar with

## What do You do?

*Pay attention to a word your child says then expand on it*

### Example:

**Child:** "toy"

**Adult:** "I see your little toy next to the big, green toy on the floor."

Let's Practice!

Activity 1: I Do

Activity 2: We Do

Activity 3: You Do



## Ideas for using Expansion at Home

<b>Morning</b>	Breakfast	
	Getting Dressed	
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## Repetition:

saying and doing the same things over and over

## Why Does it Work?

*Repetition* allows your child to learn the words that they hear frequently

## What do You do?

*repeat words during daily activities*

## Example:

**Adult:** "What do you put on your feet? Shoes! We wear shoes, we jump in our shoes, and we tie our shoes."

Let's Practice!

Activity 1: I Do

Activity 2: We Do

Activity 3: You Do



## Ideas for using Repetition at Home

<b>Morning</b>	Breakfast	
	Getting Dressed	
	Brushing Teeth/Hair	
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## Reinforcement:

Praising speech-language behavior you wish to encourage in your child.

## Why Does it Work?

*Reinforcement* lets your child know that they should continue the behavior they are displaying

## What do You do?

*praise your child when he/she displays positive speech-language behavior*

### Example:

**Adult:** "What color is the toy?"

**Child:** "Green."

**Adult:** "Good job! The toy is green!"

## Let's Practice!

Activity 1: I Do

Activity 2: We Do

Activity 3: You Do



## Ideas for using Reinforcement at Home

<b>Morning</b>	Breakfast	
	Getting Dressed	
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## Inquiry:

Asking your child questions appropriate for their language development

## Why Does it Work?

*Inquiry* encourages your child to expand their vocabulary by asking them questions that require the use of descriptive responses

## What do You do?

*ask your child a question you know they will be able to understand and answer with more than a yes or no response*

## Example:

**Adult:** "Did you have a good day at school today? What did you learn?"

## Let's Practice!

Activity 1: I Do

Activity 2: We Do

Activity 3: You Do



## Ideas for using Inquiry at Home

<b>Morning</b>	Breakfast	
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<b>Afternoon</b>	Lunch	
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## Labeling:

Asking your child questions appropriate for their language development

## Why Does it Work?

*Labeling* helps your child be familiar with the words and understand what they mean

## What do You do?

*State the name of the objects or actions as they occur*

### Example:

**Adult:** "Before we sleep, we are going to brush our teeth. Let's get our toothbrush and put toothpaste on it. We are going to brush, brush, brush so they can be clean."

Let's Practice!

Activity 1: I Do

Activity 2: We Do

Activity 3: You Do



## Ideas for using Labeling at Home

<b>Morning</b>	Breakfast	
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## You and Your Youngster:

Spending time with your child is the most important building block of all the tools for your child's development

## What do You do?

*These are some actions you can take:*

- Listening to your child as they communicate
- allow your child to speak, do not hurry to fill in missing words
- Speak slowly and clearly to your child
  - Keep a positive attitude

## Why Does it Work?

*It is important to be involved in your child's development. It helps both children and adults to become strong communicators*

Let's Practice!

Activity 1: I Do

Activity 2: We Do

Activity 3: You Do



## Ideas for You and Your Youngster at Home

<b>Morning</b>	Breakfast	
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