Building Blocks of Expressive Communication

Communication begins during infancy and continues through adulthood. You have already been communicating with your child.

We teach Our Expressive Communication Expectations By:

Teaching Examples:

- Accept 1-2 word approximations
- Expand their vocabulary
- Accept CV, CVC* word approximations
- Use the 1-Up Rule
- Build their sound repertoire by expanding on vocal back and forth
- Increase intentional communication by providing them with opportunities to communicate using their voice, gestures and/or visuals
- Respond to their vocalizations
- Engage in vocal Turn taking
- Accept Gestures to communicate (Eye gaze, point, reach, give, facial expressions, etc.)
- Model Verbal Expectations

- Expect your child's best word approximations for preferred items, solidifying their knowledge of the word.
- Expand their vocabulary by using the 1-Up rule and narrating their daily routines. Ex: During bath time use 1-2 words to narrate what you are doing "Wash arm," "pour water," "water off."
- Be consistent with your verbal expectations and make them clear.
 Expect their best word approximations for preferred items. Ex: If your child is able to say "open," hold him/her to this expectation before opening a container.
- Build on each communication attempt by providing them with an additional word (1-Up). Ex: They say "open," you say "open bag."
- After imitating your child's vocalizations during several back and forth routines, expand on each vocal turn. Ex: They say "" and you say "ahm" teaching them new sounds and to expand their vocalization.
- Provide opportunities to communicate by pausing during a favorite song or play routine and continuing after they vocalize or provide you with a gesture. Ex: Pause with an expectant facial expression during bubbles and blow the bubbles immediately after they say "b" or provide you with eye gaze.
- Respond to your child's vocalizations throughout the day by imitating them. Teach them the power of their voice.
- Continue imitating your child's vocalizations and begin vocal turn taking. Teach them the beginning skills of conversation.
- Get on their eye level and use their brief moments of eye contact as communication. Teach them eye contact can be used as a communication tool.
- Model 1-2 simple words consistently to teach your verbal expectations.
 Ex: When they are reaching for their cup say "cup" when giving it to them.

^{*}C= Consonant *V= Vowel