

Encouraging your child's learning using commenting



Our natural tendency is to ask questions and test our children in our interactions with them, however this **puts pressure on them and does not encourage development** of their language skills.

Language stimulation strategies suggest that **commenting/labelling items and actions** for children is a more effective way of developing children's understanding and use of language.

This helps to **teach** children new vocabulary!

Using commenting in everyday routines

Try using commenting during every day routines such as meal time, bath time, play time or travelling in the car.

In what daily routines could you try to comment rather than question?

Example

Breakfast time: Rather than ask my child what they are doing, I will remind them that they are eating, I will also show and tell them some other actions e.g. **pouring, drinking, cutting** and **stirring** as we are eating our food. E.g. 'I am **pouring** the milk'.

In summary

When we ask our child questions such as 'What's that?', 'What colour is it?', 'Who is it?' or 'Where did you go?'

We are:

- **Requesting** information
- **Testing** knowledge and understanding

When we comment or label for our child such as 'An apple... It's red', 'Look at Daddy' or 'You went to the park'

We are:

- **Sharing** information
- **Teaching** knowledge and developing/ extending levels of understanding



When will you try it?