



## Educational Psychology Service & Speech and Language Therapy Service

*This leaflet has been designed to support parents and educators on strategies to develop expressive language at home.*



### Expressive Language Difficulties

Expressive language difficulties are when a child struggles to use spoken words and sentences to express themselves and get their message across.

To support expressive language at home you can:



#### Give lots of time

When asking your child a question, give them lots of time to think before you expect an answer.



#### Model the language you want to encourage

For example: if the child says “car” you would say “daddy’s car” or if the child says “daddy car” you would say “daddy’s driving a car.”



#### Create opportunities

Give lots of opportunities for your child to communicate and interact with others – e.g. use open ended rather than closed questions. For example, ‘What do you like to do at home?’ rather than ‘do you like to read books?’ Open questions provide opportunities for more language whereas closed questions only require a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer.



#### Model don’t correct

If a child makes a mistake in their spoken language, try to not correct them. Instead, model back what they say correctly. For example, if they said, ‘When I played football, I runned up and down the field’ you could reply, ‘oh, when you played football, you ran up and down the field’.



#### Encourage all forms of communication

Encourage your child to communicate with you however they can e.g. using pointing, gesture, facial expression, pictures.

