



ALL ABOUT SPEECH & LANGUAGE

5 EASY TIPS FOR GETTING IN MORE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

1. **Let Them Be Teacher.** While playing together, doing a game or craft together, or while engaging in direction following activities, have your child be the teacher and tell you what to do. This is a great way to monitor their use of vocabulary, grammar, adjectives, and their overall complexity of language. After they tell you what to do, repeat their sentence back to them and expand upon their ideas while modeling correct use of grammar.
2. **Be Positive; Give Compliments.** Always praise your child and draw attention to the really great things they say and do while you are working and playing together! If they use a vocabulary word spontaneously on their own, make a great comment, say a complete sentence, or use a targeted grammatical form/tense; commend them for it, and provide specific feedback! "Alex, I really like how you just remembered to put your special ending on the word: walkED, because you're right, it's something that already happened!"... "Bobby, you just used the word "enormous" in a sentence all by yourself; that was awesome!" This will make them smile, it will make you smile, and by pointing out all the great things they are doing, it will increase the likelihood that they will happen again!
3. **Practice Makes Perfect, but it Can Still Be Fun!** Vocabulary words from school, speech and language homework, opposites, adjectives, verbs and verb tenses...the list goes on! You can always find ways to weave in these elements into your daily routines, games, car rides, trips, special occasions; whatever the case may be, make it fun! Turn vocabulary review into a game by playing "I'm thinking of a word." For example, "I'm thinking of a word that has to do with finding things really hard, tough, or challenging. I _____ at running so I don't like to play soccer. Can you guess what it is?!" "Struggle" that's right!" If you are at the zoo, find ways to incorporate describing activities into the different animal exhibits and figure out how many cool words you can use to describe the elephants, giraffes, manatees, monkeys, and more! Don't forget to use your 5 senses to describe and think about size, shape, color, feature/function!
4. **Make a Binder/Folder.** Making a folder together, a binder, or something special around which all the review work, practice, and homework can be kept in is a great way to not only keep everything organized in one place, but to create a tool in which your child can easily access and refer to things that are being worked on. If you are doing homework, playing a game, or challenging your child to something rewarding; have



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them grab, for example, 2-3 words, sentences, or directions and review them with you for a cool prize or a chance to do something first.

5. Re-live Experiences Together. Whether it be that trip to the grocery store or to Disney, a weekend at the beach, a playdate; by coming back to those experiences, talking about them with your kids and doing activities around those experiences, you will be reinforcing a wide variety of language elements (i.e. sentence formulation, use of vocabulary and verbs, describing words, sequencing (first, next/then, last), etc.). Have them make a craft, journal, or diary in which they write, draw pictures, and re-tell their version of what took place. This is especially fun to do around shared experiences that directly revolve around your child (i.e. birthdays, a win at a soccer game, performance at a recital, etc.). Who doesn't love to talk about the really fun, exciting, awesome things they have experienced and achieved?!?!

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