

# EXPRESSIVE *vs* RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE

## Expressive

How we use & combine words to share thoughts, ideas, wants, & needs. Can be speaking, signing, or AAC.

- Naming objects
- Asking questions
- Combining words to speak sentences
- Using gestures

## Receptive

What we can understand about what is communicated by others.

- Pointing to named pictures
- Following directions
- Understanding basic concepts

# EXPRESSIVE *VS* RECEPTIVE

## 1-3 YEARS

### Expressive

- Narrate what they are doing
- Speak with exaggerated and excited intonation
- Allow wait time (especially when offering choices)
- Model correct language
- Expand on what the child says: "I go" can turn into "Yes! We are going to the park!"
- Comment more than question
- Give fill in the blank statements. "A dog says....." add "woof woof" if needed
- Sing songs and use hand motions to go with the words

### Receptive

- Point to and name items you see
- Give minimal (1-2) directions at one time, Facilitate with gestures
- Use play that involves the child ("Clap your hands", "jump ON the grass!")
- Use a fun, simple listening game like "I Spy" to build vocabulary ("I spy a yellow bus, can you find it?!" "I spy a red bird at the top of the tree!")



# EXPRESSIVE vs RECEPTIVE

## 4-6 YEARS

### Expressive

- Use open ended questions or "I wonder" statements: "What is the puppy doing?", "I wonder what the puppy is doing" vs "Is the puppy sleeping?"
- Use wordless picture books, take turns telling the story/talking about the pictures.
- Increase object function and vocabulary skills through daily activities ("We're going to make a smoothie. What do we need a blender for? Why do I need a knife? I wonder what I can use to crush the ice?" )
- Use fun rapid naming games to increase vocabulary and categories ("Let's see who can name the most food items in 30 seconds!")

### Receptive

- Point to and name items while reading to your child, drawing attention to the storyline and characters, and asking comprehension questions ("Where did the turtle decide to live at the end of the story?" "Why do you think the rabbit decided to help his friends?" )
- Give multi-step directions for child to follow such as "First put your shoes in the closet and hang your coat up, then wash your hands in the kitchen"
- Increase listening and early inference skills through fun describing games ("I spy something tall, yellow, that lives at the zoo") and games such as Simon Says

# EXPRESSIVE VS RECEPTIVE

## 7-9 YEARS

### Expressive

- Play games of "What if..." to work on social skills and problem solving ("What would you do if you lost your money for lunch?" "What would you do if you couldn't find me at the grocery store?")
- Practice figurative language skills in the car by talking about common idioms. Set a goal to learn 2 each week together! ("You're pulling my leg! Do you know what that idiom means?")
- Practice more complex sentence structure by having your child give YOU multi-step directions to follow

### Receptive

- Practice sequencing involving multi-step directions during daily activities such as cooking/baking (first/then/next/last, after/before, if/then)
- Use fun riddles to work on listening and inferences ("I'm black and white and read all over; what am I?")
- In the car, play story starter games to work on listening, story structure, and grammar. Each person in the car gives one sentence that goes along with what the person before them just said. Ask each other: Does the story make sense? Did it follow a storyline?