



## How to Model Language Modeling Language to Provide Support and Development

As children are learning and expanding their language, providing appropriate language models can be a very effective facilitator for language development. The following examples demonstrate four ways you can model language for your child.

1. **Expansion:** Restating the child's utterance while adding relevant grammatical or semantic details. For example, a child says, "Him running." The listener can expand to, "Oh, he is running," (**grammatical expansion**); or, the child says, "The dog is running," and the listener may say, "Yes, the big brown dog is running fast!" (**semantic expansion**).

2. **Self-talk: Refers to what YOU are doing** as you perform an activity with your child. For example, as you bake cookies together: "I am going to open up the chocolate chips. Oops. Two chips fell out. Let's put them in. In go the chips. Time to stir. I need my big spoon. Stir, stir, stir. I'm mixing the chips into the cookie dough. Yum, yum!"

3. **Parallel talk: Refers to talking about what the CHILD is doing** while he/she is involved in an activity. For example, as the child plays with trucks: "You're driving the red truck. Up goes the truck on the ramp. It's going up very slowly. Up, up, up. Oh, no! The truck fell off the ramp. Crash!"

4. **Recast sentences:** A specific type of sentence expansion which **changes** the basic **sentence type** of the child's utterance, i.e. declarative, imperative, interrogative, exclamatory. For example, if the child makes a declarative statement, "This baby (doll) is sick," the listener may restate this utterance as a question, "Oh, is the baby sick?" or, "Doesn't the baby feel well?"