

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Interaction Strategy: Say important words and repeat

## Speech and Language Therapy Factsheet

I say important words for my child, and I repeat new words in different situations.

How does this strategy help?

- It helps my child to listen to important words.
- It helps my child to understand the meaning of new words.
- It helps my child to learn to use new words.

What should I do?

- Follow my child's focus of attention (watch what he is looking at and doing) and **say the important word or few words** that I think he would say in that situation if he could.
- **Emphasise** important words by: **stressing** the word with my voice, **slowing down** and pausing before the word (e.g. "popping the...**bubbles**"), using a **tuneful voice**, and/or saying the word in a **louder or quieter** voice.
- After I have spoken, **pause and wait expectantly** for my child to respond in any way.
- **Avoid putting pressure on** my child to speak (e.g. don't ask her to copy me).
- **Respond immediately** to my child's attempts to communicate.
- **Repeat** important words **five times in a situation** (e.g. at bath time: "**washing** your face," "**washing** your hair," "**washing** my hands," "**washing** the boat," "**washing** the duck").
- **Repeat** important words in **five different situations** during the day, such as during daily routines (e.g. dressing, bath time, meal times, nappy change, bed time), play, songs and rhymes, and/or stories.
- Only say and repeat important words when it **feels natural** to do so.
- Keep the balance of communication so that I am **taking equal turns** with my child.

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For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

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