

# DEVELOPING GOOD SPEECH

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*Some ideas for ways in which adults can help young children develop good speech and language are:*

## GOOD MODELING

- Talk about what the child is doing. ("You're pushing the car.")
- Describe what the child is seeing. ("It's a bear, there!")
- Add on to what the child says. (Child says, "dog"; adult adds, "The dog is brown.")
- Include multi-syllabled words when you speak, remembering that children understand much from content and tone of the voice.
- Use correct grammar and proper word order.
- Use complete sentences.

## GOOD LISTENING

- Speak slowly.
- Leave "pause time" when talking so that the child can add his own words.
- Talk with the child at the child's eye level.



## If You Don't Understand the Child

- Repeat what the child seemed to say.
- Look around the environment for clues.
- Ask the child to show you what she wants and then describe it to the child. ("Oh, you want a cookie.")

## If the Child Speaks Little, But Understands

- Ask questions that require more than a yes/no answer. ("Do you want a cookie or some milk?")
- Use simple sentences.

## Read to the Child and Talk About the Story and Pictures.

- This is a wonderful way to spend quality time with the child, enrich the relationship and contribute to language development. ♡