

Strategy Spotlight Sheet: Expanding Your Child's Words

What It Is

Expanding means adding one or two words to what your child says. This strategy allows you to model longer phrases and helps them grow their language naturally.

Why It Helps

Using language that's just a step beyond what they can say helps children learn how to build sentences over time. It keeps communication going and builds confidence.

Try It Out

- If your child says "ball," you can say, "big ball" or "roll the ball."
- When they say "more," you might say, "more crackers" or "want more."
- If your child gestures or points, say what they might be thinking: "You want up!"

Next Steps

- Try not to "correct"—just repeat what they say and then add a little more.
- Keep it simple and natural, like you're talking with a friend.
- Talk with your SLP about how to match your child's level and when to build from there.

Notes:
