Summer Time!

Summer can be a supper fun and relaxing time for kids and is full of natural ways to help build your child’s language skills with activities and materials you already have. Here are some tips for encouraging language growth at home this summer:

1) Play – Children naturally learn language through play, so get down there and play with your full attention.
   - Label the objects and actions.
   - Correlate play activities to real life situations.
   - Follow your child’s lead and keep it fun!

2) Self-Talk—Talk about what you are doing as you are doing it! For example, “let’s match the socks. I’m finding two that are the same. Here’s one blue one, it has stripes, I can’t find the match. There it is under the white sock. Now I fold it over and toss it in the basket”

3) Read books—Books are fantastic ways to increase positive interactions, vocabulary, social skills, prediction skills, receptive language skills, sentence constructions and pre-literacy skills.
   - Fun Fact – time spent reading to your baby, toddler, and preschooler directly correlates with later reading achievement.
   - When you read, try the reading strategies included in this packet.

4) Sentence Extension—Whatever your child says to you, repeat it back to them adding a word to make the sentence longer or more complex. For example, your child says: “water” you can say “want water?” or “cold water” or “need water” or whatever adds another verb of descriptor word. The idea is to model more meaning for your child, you do not need to require your child to repeat you, but eventually she will start to!

5) Take pictures of your day and review them with your child at the end of the night. You don’t need to print them, though you can and refer to them later. Everyone likes to see themselves in pictures, reviewing the day solidifies new vocabulary, remember experiences, increases positive interactions with your child, and helps your child learn to report on activities and answer questions.

Have an amazing summer,

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