

Children need to understand words before they can use them.

What the child understands = Receptive Language



What the child says or does to express himself = Expressive Language
i.e. words, signs, gestures, uses pictures

An example of the difference between encouraging expressive and receptive language skills:

If you say “what colour is it?,” you are encouraging **expressive** language

If you say “show me red,” you are encouraging **receptive** language

<u>Activity:</u>	<u>Expressive:</u>	<u>Receptive:</u>
Mealtime	“Do you want a banana or an apple?”	“Give me the banana.”
Bathtime	Place favourite bath toy out of reach and wait until child asks for it.	“Wash your face,” or “Wash your arm.”
Dressing	Give only one sock and wait until child asks for the other sock.	“Show me your shirt.”
Playtime	“Where does the doll sleep?”	“Put the ball in the basket.”
Books	“Look, the dog is...” (and wait for child to answer) or “What is the cat doing?”	“Point to the dog.” or “Where is the cat?”

** In the beginning, use these activities with objects that are **familiar** to your child.