Modelling

What is it?

Modelling is a strategy whereby a child is exposed to examples of specific language structures to be learnt. It provides them an opportunity to hear language used in the right form and context and allows an opportunity to use it with guidance and correction.

Strategies:

- The "model" is given by the adult and the child is encouraged to imitate it

- Ensure your child is looking and listening to the model

- Say the desired word or phrase simultaneous to displaying the object or action

- Models include naming words (e.g. ball), verbs (e.g. eat), phrases (e.g. boy eating), sentences (e.g. The boy is eating an apple) and questions (e.g. What is it?).

- Use other techniques, e.g. exaggeration of expression and anticipation, to help the child to learn the word, phrase or sentence

- Repetition is useful to reinforce the target

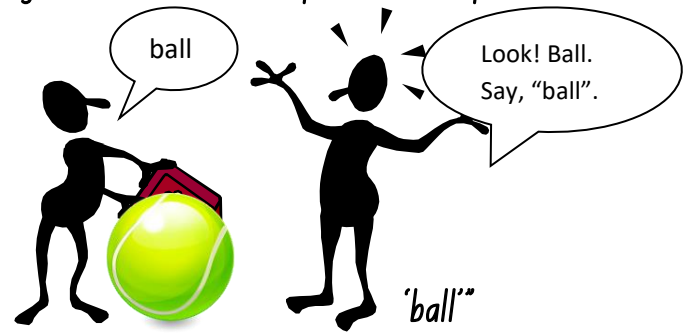- You may model a new form of language, revise a child's previous response or correct the child's response

Modelling naming words (nouns)

Parent: (holds ball) "Look! Ball"

Child: (no response) Parent: "ball. Say, 'ball'"

Child: "ball"

Parent: "Great! You said it!"(Reinforces the correct use of language)

Modelling action words

Parent: "Here's the baby. Let's feed the baby. Baby _eating_"

Child: (Feeds baby)

Parent: "Eating. Baby eating. You say 'eat'"

Child: "ee" (approximations are reinforced with ongoing modelling)

Parent: "Great work! Baby is _eating_!" (Feeds baby some more)

Modelling for two or more words

You may have to separate the words and have your child say each word after you

> Parent: "You say 'push car'"
>
> Child: (no response)
>
> Parent: "Say 'push"
>
> Child: "pu"
>
> Parent: "car"
>
> Child: "tar" (sound errors are not uncommon with young children first learning language)
>
> Parent: "Great! Push car!"

Modelling using a question

> Start with a question "Where is the doll?" (pause)
>
> Model the answer "In the box" (pause)
>
> Then ask the question again "Where is the doll?"