

Binary Choice & Self Talk

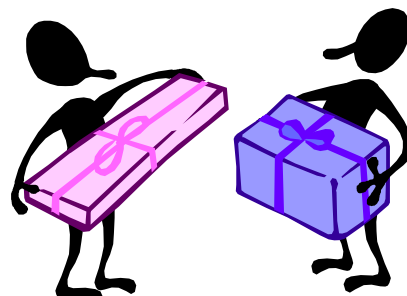
What are they?

Binary choice is a process of eliciting language from children by giving them choices. It develops their language and decision making. They are required to process the words and apply the choice to the situation.

Target language structures can be emphasised within the choice and repeated until the correct utterance is selected. With children who echo responses straight after the model, ensure the correct answer is not always the last word spoken. It is important that the child does not just point but attempts to verbalise an attempt at the choice.

Self talk is a process that can be used in daily situations. The adult uses a level of language matched or just above the child's language. It involves describing and explaining what is being done in everyday situations while it is taking place.

With early language, it is best spoken in the first person, i.e. from the voice of the person completing the activity. It teaches children new words and when done in simple language, allows new utterances and vocabulary to be learnt in a non-threatening manner.



How is it done?

Binary Choice Example 1

Parent: (holding an apple and pear) Do you want the apple or the pear?

Child: pear!



Binary Choice Example 2

Parent: (holding puzzle) more puzzle or puzzle finished?

Child: puzzle

Parent: more puzzle or puzzle finished?

Child: more puzzle!



Self Talk Example



Parent: Daddy's cooking the sausages! Ow! BBQ is hot. Be careful! Yummy sausages for dinner! Watch out! Look, Daddy's turning the sausages over!

Child: Yummy sausages! Me hungry. Want dinner!

Parent: Daddy hungry too. Dinner's coming soon buddy!

