

3 STRATEGIES TO BUILD LANGUAGE SKILLS

PRODUCED BY SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES, BURNABY SCHOOLS

01

NARRATING: TALK ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING

Narrating means describing actions, thoughts, or events out loud. It helps children connect words to what they see and do, building vocabulary and understanding.

A. SELF-TALK

What it is: You talk about what you're doing, thinking, or feeling.

Why it helps:

- Models internal thought processes
- Introduces new vocabulary and sentence structures
- Helps children understand problem solving and sequencing

How to do it:

- You narrate what you are doing, e.g., 'I'm opening the drawer to find the scissors. Now I'm cutting the paper into a circle.'

B. PARALLEL TALK

What it is: You talk about what your child is doing, thinking, or feeling.

Why it helps:

- Validates and reinforces your child's experience
- Encourages attention and engagement

How to do it:

- You describe what your child is doing, e.g., 'You're stacking the blocks so carefully. That one is really tall!'



02

RECASTING: GENTLY CORRECT AND MODEL

Recasting is a way to correct grammar without interrupting your child's flow.

What it is: Restating your child's sentence with proper grammar.

Why it helps:

- Gently models correct language
- Keeps the conversation natural and encouraging

How to do it:

- Child says: 'Him go park.' You say: 'He's going to the park.'

03

EXPANDING: ADD MORE TO THEIR WORDS

Expanding means taking what your child says and building on it with more detail.

What it is: Adding words to make their sentence longer and richer.

Why it helps:

- Introduces new vocabulary
- Encourages longer, more complex sentences

How to do it:

- Child says: 'Dog run.' You say: 'Yes, the dog is running fast in the yard.'

