

## Using Exclamatory Words to

### Encourage First Words

Exclamatory words are 'fun words' that have lots of expression and sound interesting. These types of words can be a good starting point for children who are not yet using words. Exclamatory words can quickly gain your child's attention and help to engage them in what you are doing. You can use these words both during play and in your daily routines. Of course, continue to model other words as you name and comment on things throughout the day.



#### Top tips

- ❖ Use gestures and an animated facial expression as you say the words
- ❖ Repeat the words as part of the verbal routine during play
- ❖ Try not to ask your child to say the words. Instead, pause and give them an opportunity to say the word. If they don't, just model the word again and try again another time.
- ❖ Animal, vehicle and environmental sounds are also good sounds to model
- ❖ Examples of when you could model certain words:
  - Mmmm, yummy, yucky (during mealtimes or sensory / messy play)
  - Crash, Bang, Beep – during play with cars and other toy vehicles
  - Uh oh, Oh no, whoops – when something goes wrong, when knocking down towers of bricks
  - Shhh – pretend play with dolls, role playing going to sleep
  - Boing – using a slinky or when jumping on the floor, bed or a trampoline
  - Wheee – when going down a slide or when on a swing
  - Pop – during play with bubbles or when popping bubble wrap
  - Yippee, wow – anytime you are having fun or looking at something interesting
  - Boom – when playing a drum or banging hands on the floor or sofa dramatically