

MODELLING LANGUAGE

Some kids learn language in whole phrases or scripts. Our goal is to model rich and meaningful phrases that capture what they may be thinking, making it easier to repeat.

Model From Their Perspective

- *Use language they would say, not what you would say.*
- *Example: Instead of “Do you want to play with the ball?” say “Let’s play with the ball!” or “It’s ball time!”*



Use Natural-Sounding Scripts

- *Think: simple, chunky phrases they might hear on TV, YouTube, or real life.*
- *Example: “Here we go!”, “All done!”, “We did it!”, “I want more!”, “No way!”*

Use Sentence Starters

- *Help them build internal libraries of flexible phrases:*
 - *“It’s...” (e.g., “It’s snack time!”)*
 - *“Let’s...” (e.g., “Let’s go outside!”)*
 - *“I want...” (e.g., “I want that one!”)*
 - *“Oh no!” / “Yay!” / “Wow!”*



Repeat, Reuse, and Be Consistent

- *Use the same phrases in the same context repeatedly.*
- *Repetition helps them absorb and eventually own the gestalt.*

Keep It Fun and Emotional

- *Phrases stick better when connected to emotion or fun experiences.*
- *Use exaggerated intonation, facial expression, and excitement.*

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Pause & Wait

- Give space after modeling to allow processing or echolalic response.



Respect Scripting & Repeated Phrases

- Treat any repeated phrase as meaningful communication. Build on it!
- If they say “We did it!” after stacking blocks, affirm it: “Yeah! We did it!”

Avoid Demands & Questions

- Avoid asking questions like “what is this called?” or demands like “say...”
- Focus on declarative language (statements, comments) instead.



Use Visuals & Routines

- Pair phrases with actions, routines, visuals, or play sequences.
- E.g., during cleanup: “All done!”, “Let’s clean up!”, “Bye-bye toys!”

Model Across the Day

- Integrate scripts into daily routines:
 - Morning: “Time to get up!”, “Let’s get dressed!”
 - Mealtime: “Mmm, yummy!”, “I want more!”
 - Bedtime: “It’s sleepy time!”, “Night-night!”

