

EXPAND & ADD



A mother's ability to respond to her deaf infant was a powerful predictor of the child's ability to develop attentiveness, social skills and language.¹¹

Build onto child communication attempts. Expansion is making what your child says/signs more complex or complete. Expanding on your child's communication attempts means meeting the child where they are and adding more.

Linguistic mapping, providing the words your child needs to describe things they are interested in but can't yet express.

Novel mapping, connecting unfamiliar words to new objects or actions

RESEARCH SHOWS...

helps foster language growth and strengthen social connection helping your child link language to their environment and encouraging deeper understanding.



TRY THIS:

- If your child signs/ says one word, you respond with that word plus one more.
 - Ex: "dog!" you say "big dog!"
 - Baby signs "dog" and you reply, "Yes! That is our dog, June. She is running so fast!"
- Use toys for expansion
 - If your baby says/signs "choo-choo" or "train", you can reply, "You are right! That is a choo-choo train. The train rides on tracks."
- Mealtime is a great time for this
 - Ex: Baby says "mmm" or signs "more" when eating a banana. You could respond with, "You ate all the banana on your plate and it looks like you want more. Bananas are delicious. Let me get you some more."