

## Strategies to develop vocabulary

### **Wait! Wait! Wait!**

It is useful to give your child lots of time to respond or take a turn. Try slowing down the pace of activities / songs to give him / her a chance to join in more easily.

### **Try not to ask questions**

Name lots of things for your child, 'input' of vocabulary with lots of simple repetition is the most effective way to encourage spoken language

### **Talk lots to your child during everyday activities**

Name all of the clothes as you take them out of the washing machine, name all of the food as you are buying / cooking it etc.

### **Last Word Strategy**

The word heard last is remembered most easily – so put your key word at the end of your phrase e.g., Here's your coat; Lets do painting; Hands up!

### **Use visual cues to help understanding**

Point / show what you are talking about - use actions or gestures

### **Focus on Key Words**

In simple phrases with lots of repetition each time the activity takes place. Repetition helps understanding, memory and eventually joining in.