Communication strategies with your child: Tips from a speech therapist

Role of a speech therapist

 Speech therapists are professionals who are trained to assess, manage, and provide treatment for communication, feeding and/or swallowing difficulties.

Communication

Communication typically involves both speech and language skills.

SPEECH

- Related to how we say, or articulate, sounds in words and/or sentences
- Involve coordinating the muscles of our lips, tongue, and jaw

These skills help a child to express their wants and needs effectively and clearly.

LANGUAGE

- Related to the way we communicate with others
- Involves:
 - 1) Receptive language
 - listening/understanding, reading
 - **2) Expressive language** speaking, writing



Speech and language

development takes place most rapidly during a child's early years and continues into school age. These skills are essential to facilitate a child's learning and acquisition of other skills such as reading and writing.

COMMUNICATION AND CANCER

Children diagnosed with or are undergoing treatment for cancer may experience speech and/or language problems of varying severity. There may be a:

- Delay in the acquisition of skills or
- Loss of skills that they have previously

These can affect a child's ability to talk, understand and use words, read and/or write to communicate their wants and needs effectively and clearly. The difficulties may persist beyond the diagnosis and treatment, and further affect their cognition and learning ability.

GENERAL STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATION

Supporting communication development



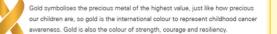
Children learn to communicate through exposure to speech and language they hear around them. For children who experience a delay in developing their speech and language skills, here are some ways to support them in developing skills:

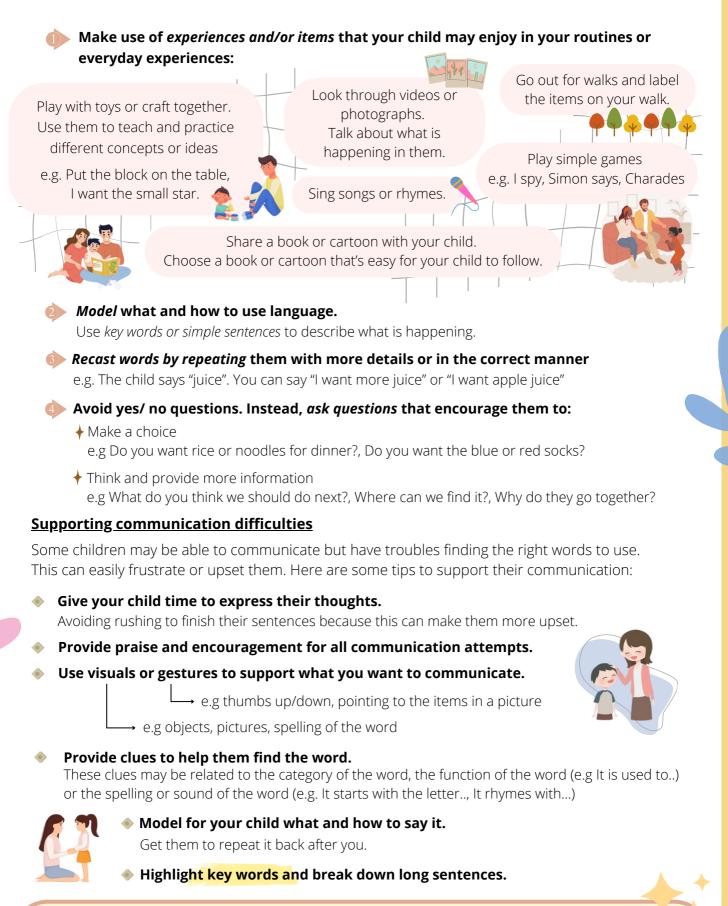












You may talk to your medical team If you are concerned about your child's speech or language. They may recommend a referral to the speech therapist who can help to assess and manage the speech or language difficulties. The therapist may use a range of assessment and treatment approaches, and can recommend strategies to address specific concerns.









Gold symbolises the precious metal of the highest value, just like how precious our children are, so gold is the international colour to represent childhood cancer awareness. Gold is also the colour of strength, courage and resiliency.