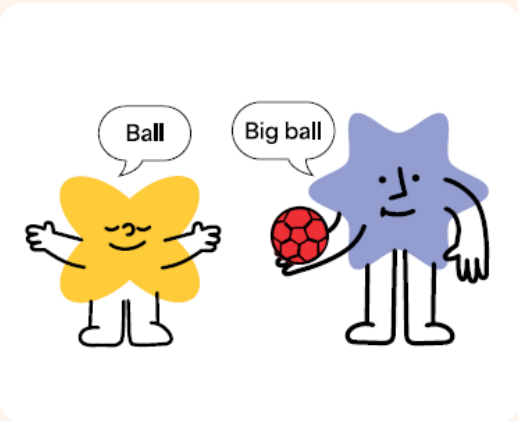## Communication and Language Top: Model and Extend Tips

Whatever stage a child is at, repeat what they do or say and add one word.

For example, your child points to a ball, you say *"ball"*. Your child says *"ball"*, you say *"big ball"*. They say, *"big ball"*, you say *"yes, big red ball"*.

Model new words

- When out walking talk to your child and name what you see; *"look a tree''*.
- Model correct words. Say 'bird'. not. 'birdie'.

Scan QR code or click the link to see the video: [Play the name game when out and about](#)
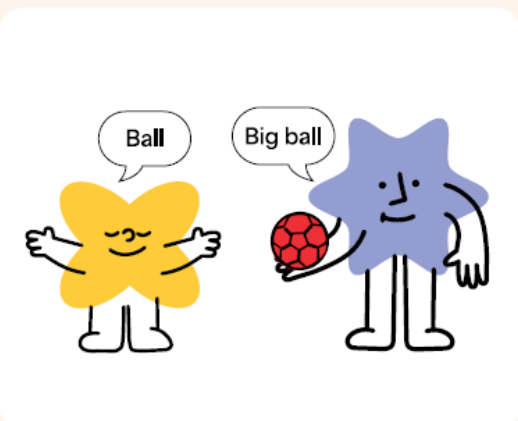
Model and Extend

- Listen to your child.
- Extend what they say by adding extra words.
- If your child says, *"mummy car"* you could say *"mummy is driving the car"*.

Scan QR code or click the link to see the video: [YouTube – Golden Rule 4 – Model and Extend](#)

Do you know…

Children learn language when it makes sense. Talking to children as they play is a good way to help them learn language.

Comment and describe what your child is doing as they do it. This helps babies and young children hear simple words and phrases.

Children may not understand if you use lots of words without meaning. Try to make comments meaningful, "*your tower is getting taller and taller*".

Expand on what children say as you reply, add one or two words. This helps children begin to link words and ideas together.

All beginners make mistakes. When children make mistakes, it is useful to model back what they say the correct way. This helps children learn the correct form of language.

Recast

- If your child says a word incorrectly, repeat the word correctly.
- If they say "*tat*" you can repeat "*a cat*"
- If they say "*dog runned*" you can say, "*yes, the dog ran*"

Scan QR code or click the link to see the video: [How to help when toddlers say words wrong](#)

Talk about what you do

- Think out loud. Talk to your child about what you're doing, when you're doing it.
- Children will begin to match what they hear to the object or action, as you talk about it.

Scan QR code or click the link to see the video: [What can we make to eat?](#)