Building Better Communication

- What is communication? The act of sharing information by speaking, writing, or other non-verbal cues
- What is speech? The expression of words, thoughts, and feelings by articulating vocal sounds
- What is language? A human form of speech which is either written or spoken and involves understanding and producing words to share ideas and convey meaning

Communication Strategies

- Provide Opportunities for Unstructured Play
    - Create Pretend Scenarios
    - Celebrate Storytelling Through Play, "What's happening in your adventure? Can you act it out for me?"
    - Allow Play with Minimal Rules, "How do you want to play with these blocks today?"
- Allow for Storytelling
    - Use Story Starters, "A mysterious package arrived at the door…"
    - Practice Retelling Stories
    - Model Storytelling
- Practice Active Listening
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    - Encourage Turn-Taking in Conversations
    - Play Listening Games, (Simon Says, Telephone)
- Use Effective Questioning
    - Create a Curious Environment
    - Teach Open-Ended Questions, "What do you like about…"
    - Incorporate Questioning Games, (20 Questions)

Tips to Effectively Communicate

- Ask Them About Their Day
    - Start With Specific, Open-Ended Questions, "Did anything make you laugh today?"
    - Be Creative with Your Prompts, "If your day was a movie, what would the title be?"

- Let Them Talk Freely Without Correcting
    - Wait until they finish talking before asking more questions or offering feedback.
    - Instead of focusing on how to correct their speech, actively listen to their ideas, which reinforces the importance of listening in return.

For more information contact:

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Visit: https://reach.fdlrs.org/

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Resources:

Vivek International Public School: https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/how-to-improve-childrens-communication-skills/257363892

Banter Speech and Language: https://www.banterspeech.com.au/parents-of-children-aged-6-12-years-11-practical-ideas-to-increase-your-childs-participation-and-communication-skills/

Its Decorably: https://itsdecorably.com/

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