**Language Stimulation Techniques:**

**Give Choices:** If your child is having difficulty formatting a sentence/giving you answer, provide choices. For example, “is it \_\_/\_\_,” “Do we way\_\_or \_\_\_.”

**Break Down Task:** For multiple directions, only provide one step at a time and have them repeat the step before they perform. When working on pronouns ask first if it is a boy or a girl. Then say yes it is a \_\_\_, do we say she or he.

**Visual Cues vs. Verbal cues:** Providing visuals is another way to break down the task, serve as reminder and can help increase comprehension.

**Increase Receptive Language before Expressive Language:** Most children first need to understand a task before they can express their understanding. Check for understand before requiring a verbal answer. For example, ask to point to the objects/attributes/functions/concepts/grammatical forms (verb tenses, pronouns, present progressives) before labeling and stating what is happening or where something is.

**Get at your child’s level:** When playing with your child, get on the floor so you can look them in their eye. This increases their attention and comprehension and they can better read your body language.

**Use Open-Ended Questions:** Ask questions in which your child cannot answer yes/no or with one-word phrases. For example use phrases such as, “Tell me about,” “What do you think,” “What should we do,” “What’s the problem,” “Why did \_\_ happen,” etc.

**Pause with Inflection:** When you want to increase your child’s utterances and give you more information, repeat their short phrase and provide an inflection in your voice, similar to asking a question when stating the last word followed with a pause. The inflection and pause will cue your child to add more words without the verbal cues.

**Details:** Work on using lots of words and on describing attributes (color, size, function, etc). Don’t allow you child to use one-word phrases. Encourage them to use their words. You can prompt them with “Tell me more about \_\_\_,” and require attributes. For example when they say “Block please” Say, “I have lots of blocks, I wonder which one you want, use all your words” to elicit “blue block please” or a longer utterance.