

EXPANSION

A Listening and Spoken Language Strategy

WHAT is it?

“Expansion” is rephrasing what a child says in a more correct, complete, or complex way.

WHY do we use it?

When we model longer, correct phrases, we create more listening opportunities! It can help build a child’s vocabulary and help them start to use longer phrases on their own.

WHEN do we use it?

Because the child doesn’t need to repeat it, *expansion* is a great strategy to use at any age or stage of listening or language development. It can be used all throughout the day.

HOW do we do it?

There are a lot of ways!

Change a question to a statement

Add more information

Rephrase with correct grammar

Who
can use it?

Anyone!

Parents, family members, teachers, and therapists can all use LSL strategies to support your child’s listening and spoken language development!



WHAT does it look like at home?

Hearing a baby cry:

Child: “Baby hurt?”

Parent: “The baby might be hurt. You heard her crying. Maybe she is just hungry.”

Child and parent playing:

Child: “My train is blue.”

Parent: “Your blue train also has black wheels and square windows!”

Watching a sibling at a soccer game:

Child: “Her running fast!”

Parent: “You’re right! *She is* running so fast!”

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