

Developing 7 Important Pre-verbal Skills: Laying the Foundations for Verbal Communication

Mr. Lee Kong Meng

M Hlth Sc (SLP) , MMASH
Speech-Language Therapist
Speech Beacon

My Child is NOT yet Talking!!!

SO HOW??

- A. Talk More (Talk ++++++)
- B. Read More (Books ++++++)
- C. Wait still young!!!
- D. Play More (Play ++++++)
- E. Spend More time (time ++++++)
- F. Send him to Kindergarten
- G. ALL the above .

MY WISH

*



Child : “I ‘m Not Ready!!”



Why Drilling My Child to Talk Isn't Working???

You have the right Target.....

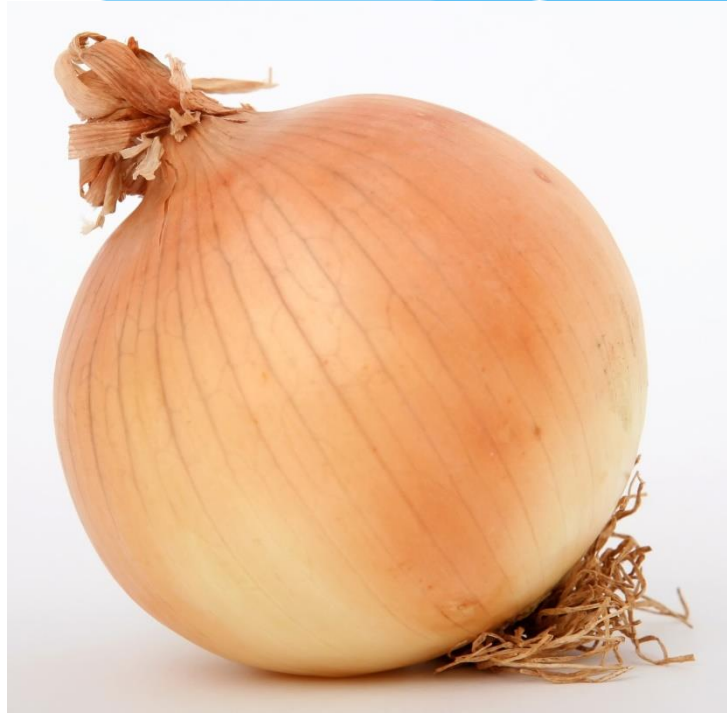
But you child has “different rules” of playing the “Talking Game”.



Let's learn a foreign language



The Onion of Speech



Social-interaction

- * The desire to interact and play with another individual
- * Not all children with speech delay has this difficulty
- * Eye-contact and joint-attention are parts of social-interaction
- * Joint-attention: when you and your child has the same focus on something

Ways to improve social-interaction

4 “I”s

* | _____

* | _____

* | _____

* | _____

Ways to improve joint-attention

- * Respond to your child's initiation

(You need to be like an OWL)

O _____, W _____, L _____

Imitate or Naming or Comments, less Questions

- * Minimize distractions
- * Meet your child's sensory needs
- * Use highly attractive toys (visual /light/sound)
- * Bring the toys near his face then bring back near your face
- * Call the child and point to an interesting object



Activities to improve social- interaction

* 3 “B”s

B _____, B _____, B _____

3 “P”s

- * Physical games (piggy back, horse ride)
- * Playground (swing, see-saw, slide)
- * People games (Peek-a-boo, hide and seek, catching)
- * Action songs/ music and movement

Remember and stick to your expectation

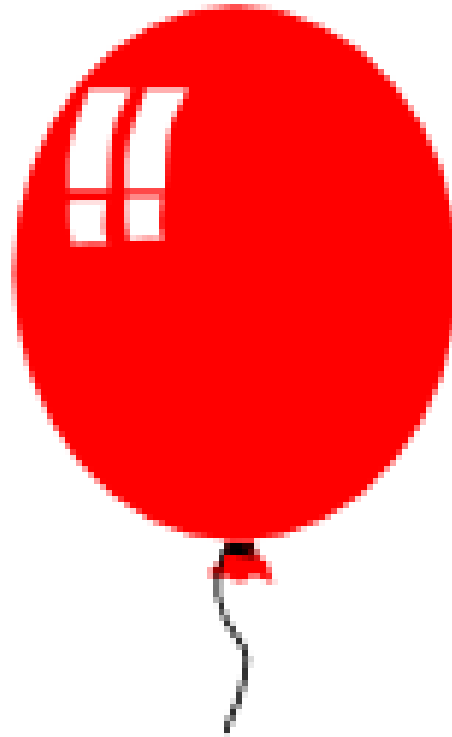
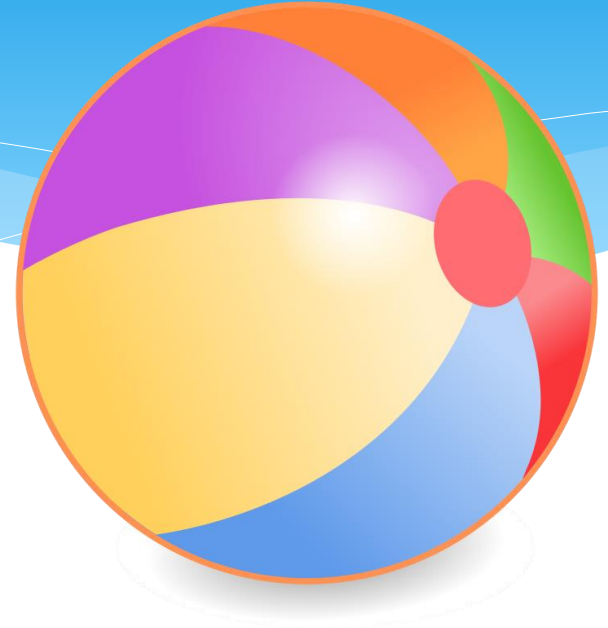
Social-interaction \neq Talking or Communicating

Playing together without same FOCUS/ Interaction \neq Social-interaction

Play or Doing something **Together** with **Interaction** is Social-Interaction.

First with an adult (parents, teachers), later with other kids

Let's Practice



Imitation


- * Getting your child to copy your actions/play or sounds
- * First actions or play, sounds/words much later
- * If still not copying, try verbal then physical prompt
- * Remember before you want your child to copy you, you need to copy him first.

Sequence of Imitation

Play (push car, stack block, play musical instrument)



Gesture/action (action in songs, wave Bye, shake head, pointing)



Sound/ word (animal or transportation sound)

Play skills

Functional
Play

Car, ball,
instruments

Pretend Play

Cooking toy,
doll house,
doctor set

Symbolic Play

Use a block as
phone

Play and Language



Gestural Communication

- * Ability to understand and use gesture/body language in communication.
- * Some have problem understanding, some have issue copying the gesture (e.g. dyspraxia)
- * Start with simple ones: wave bye bye, pointing, “give me” with open palm, “open”, “help”
- * More advance: nod/shake head, signs
- * Always pair verbal word with the gesture

Let's Practice

- * Show you child how you use it
- * Create opportunities for your child to use it
- * Assist him to copy the gesture



Oral-motor (OM) Readiness

* Speech requires complex coordination and movement involving :

Tongue

Lips

Jaws

Palates

Voice box

Breathing system

Signs of Oral-motor Issue

- * Low muscle tone
- * Drooling
- * Feeding problem (chewing, sucking)
- * Over/under sensitive with oral area
- * Mouthing objects
- * Poor Lips closure

The issue could be either muscle weakness or sensory-based or combination of both

Who might have OM problems

- * Children with Low muscle tone (Down Syndrome)
- * Children with general motor delay
- * Children with cerebral palsy
- * Children with dyspraxia/oral dyspraxia
- * Children with autism

NOT all children who has speech delay are having OM problem.

Oral-motor Therapy

- * The evidence of Oral-motor exercises / Oral-motor tools in developing Speech for children is not sufficient
- * However, those children who has muscle-based or oral-sensory problems could benefit directly with Oral-motor Therapy (OMT).
- * Many Speech Therapists still use some form of OMT in feeding and speech therapy
- * OMT should be apply to those who has real OM issues only.

Various forms of OMT

- * Oral and facial massage
- * Tongue, Lips exercises (sucking, blowing)
- * Talk Tools (blowing tools, sucking straw, chewy tube etc.)
- * Chewing
- * Oral desensitization (brushing of oral outer and inner muscles)

Q and A

