

IV Examples of activities

Improve the language skills of your children through the following activities:

- ▶ Play board games with your children (e.g., flying chess, monopoly, the game of life). During the process, create opportunities for your children to use different sentence structures to explain the rules of the games, such as, “because you roll the dice and get ‘six’ three times in a row, your chess has to return to the starting point (the rule of flying chess)”, “If your chess stops on the ‘prison’ square, you will have to pause a round (the rule of monopoly)”, etc...
- ▶ Read an article or a story to your children, then ask them about the content, and explain and illustrate the usage of the sentence or vocabularies.
- ▶ Also while doing handicraft, exercising or cooking, understand the contents of manuals, instructions, recipes, etc., together with your children.
- ▶ Allow your children to narrate more about daily events, school life, TV series or film plots, etc.
- ▶ Allow your children to briefly introduce the content of cartoons, TV series, films and videos.
- ▶ Play “guess and talk” with your children. Take turns to guess things through their descriptions, for example, “it is a kind of fruit, which is big and round, with green skin and red flesh, and it can be eaten as fruit or made into juice”, thus encouraging your children to describe different things from multiple perspectives.
- ▶ Communicate with your children or discuss family issues more in daily life (e.g., planning family activities together).
- ▶ Read newspapers or watch news with your children, and discuss some of the contents. For example, take turns with your children to express the views on some topics. While expressing, parents and the children should express one’s stance clearly and in detail, and support your own views with appropriate reasons and examples.

Support Measures and Strategies

Referral

If you suspect that your children have difficulties in language comprehension and/or expression, they may be referred by the school to the school-based speech therapist for follow-up.

Useful Website and Telephone Number for Enquiry

Hotline

If you have any questions, please call the Education Bureau at 3698 3957.

Website

“SENSE” Integrated Education and Special Education Information website
<https://sense.edb.gov.hk/>



How to Enhance the Language Ability of Children with Speech and Language Impairment



Introduction

Language is an important medium for communication and learning. Improving the language abilities of your children will help them understand the contents of lessons more effectively and express themselves accurately. To improve the language ability of your children, apart from the learning environment at school, family is also an important language learning environment. Therefore, parent play a very important role in the process of language learning of your children.

Roles of Parents

I Create a good language environment and give appropriate encouragement

- ▶ Describe more about what your children or other people around are doing.
- ▶ Describe more about what your children care about.
- ▶ Accept that your children have difficulties in verbal expression, listen to them patiently and try to understand what they mean.
- ▶ Avoid blaming your children for their mistakes in front of others. Don't compare them with their siblings or other children.
- ▶ Respond appropriately to the speech of your children, give them more encouragement and appreciation, give them appropriate cues or demonstrations if necessary.
- ▶ Encourage your children to try to express. Don't let their siblings or elders speak for them.
- ▶ If your children perform well or make progress, such as focusing, trying bravely, speaking in an orderly manner etc., encouragement should be given.

II Help your children comprehend verbal content

- ▶ Paying attention and receiving the verbal messages clearly is the first step of comprehension. Therefore, get the attention of your children first and reduce the disturbance of the environment before speaking.
- ▶ While talking with your children, the content should be concise and direct. Should use vocabularies and short sentences that can be understood easily.
- ▶ Speak at a moderate speed to avoid providing too much information at one time.
- ▶ If your children fail to understand about the content of conversation, parents can use words that can be understood easily and short sentences to explain complex concepts.



III Facilitate the language expression of your children

- ▶ Talk more with your children and establish the habit of regular communication.
- ▶ Create more opportunities for conversation in daily life, let your children participate in daily chat and express their opinions.
- ▶ Be patient. Let your children can have enough time to organise and express.
- ▶ Increase the understanding of vocabularies of your children, such as the meaning, usage and related concepts of vocabularies, for example: "diligent" is an adjective used to describe people".
- ▶ Guide your children to expand the meaning of sentences and enrich the content of expression.
- ▶ Give appropriate cues to help your children organise the content of expressions.
- ▶ Instruct your children to narrate events according to the sequence of happenings.
- ▶ Use leading questions, such as "when?", "where?", "who?", "what incident?", "cause of incident?", "course of incident?", "result of incident?" etc., to guide your children to describe the events more comprehensively.