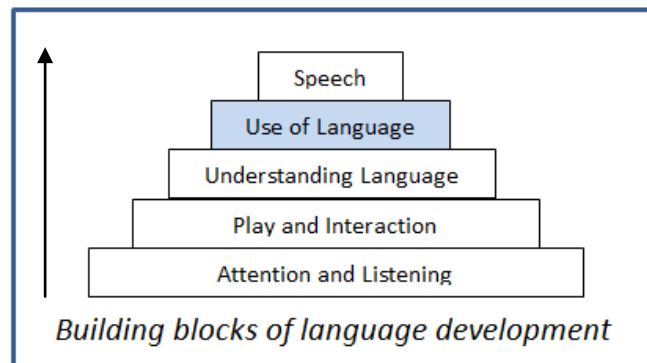


Repeating and Extending



When your child attempts a word or phrase for the first time, they are not likely to say it correctly. For example, the child may try to say “Daddy’s gone to work” but they say “Daddy go”. Repeating the word or phrase clearly after the child attempts it lets them know that you have understood them and they can hear the word or phrase in its correct form.

When you say a word or phrase the child *does not* need to repeat it after you. You should NOT ask your child to say words or repeat things that you say. Hearing the correct words is enough to help them learn.

When you repeat what they have said, add a word or two. You will then be using sentences which are slightly longer than the ones your child normally uses. If your child normally says one word at a time, then try extending this to two words:

Your child says “messy,” you say “messy table!”

Your child says “Daddy go” you say “Daddy’s going to work.”

This is a good way of showing your child how to use longer sentences themselves.



Remember that your child is trying his best to communicate, and they are saying the words the best they can at their age.

By repeating words, you are always being positive about your child’s attempts to communicate. The more confident they feel the more they will have a go, and their skills will develop over time with your support.