



BELINDA HILL
& Associates
SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS



Committed to developing communication in a fun, caring and dynamic environment

Practising Members of The Speech Pathology Association of Australia

Expressive Language



This is the ability of a child/student to:

- Put words together into sentences
- Use grammar correctly eg. 'he ate' not 'him eated'
- Retell a story or an event
- Explain a situation/problem with adequate information
- Use words in the correct order in a sentence
- Label objects in their environment and describe the actions and events that occur
- Answer questions such as 'Who, What, When, Why and How?' with sufficient information

Children with expressive language problems may:

- Use shorter sentences with incorrect grammar
- Have difficulty thinking of names of objects, or have difficulty searching for a word eg. “umm, you know...that thing”
- Have difficulty retelling what has happened in their day or retelling a story from a book
- Have problems using their language to communicate effectively with their peers in the playground
- Be unable to clearly describe or retell an event that has happened during the day

We can assist children with expressive language problems by:

- ✓ Expanding the sentences they use in their interactions
- ✓ Modelling appropriate sentences for them to imitate
- ✓ Talking about what you do throughout the day with your child
- ✓ Having them take turns at telling stories to you/others
- ✓ Correcting incorrect grammar and providing praise when attempts are made to correct the phrase
- ✓ Asking them about objects in their environment
- ✓ Describing and discussing books/everyday situations
- ✓ Asking them questions such as: “Who is it? What are the people doing? Where? Why? and How?”
- ✓ Playing word finding games – where the child has to think of words when we describe them
- ✓ Spending time talking **to** them and **with** them
- ✓ Sharing time looking at and talking about books
- ✓ Having ‘talking time’ daily without distractions ie. TV turned off for 1 hour every afternoon or sitting down at the dinner table together to talk about the day’s events.

June 2008