EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE



Domain and goal

Activities

 Begins to use jargon, 3–4 syllables with adult-like intonation combined with some pausing

A milestone

- This is an exciting time for you and your child. You should be noticing your child is vocalising strings of syllables that match the intonation, rhythm and phoneme structure of your own language. This is possible because you have been speaking naturally to your child, using parentese, and providing a rich language environment.
- As you listen to your child, notice how your child is saying longer utterances. You
 may also hear a known performative or word approximation in his speech. Your
 child knows the people around him speak in phrases and he is trying to make his
 speech sound the same. He doesn't have enough true words to communicate in
 phrases so he strings the phonemes you have been practicing together so it sounds
 like what he hears. This is a normal developmental stage that all children, typically
 hearing or hearing impaired, go through.

Fostering jargon

 Sit down and play with your child this week and incorporate the skills you have learned into your play. Observe your child and wait for him to communicate and then respond with a comment or an acknowledgement. DO NOT RESPOND WITH A QUESTION OR A TEST! Remember, some of your child's communications may still be non-verbal, it is important to acknowledge these communications but to also talk for your child so he hears the language he was not able to produce. The longer you wait, or pause, the more your child will talk. You will have more success if you incorporate play representing daily routines as this is the language your child has heard the most. Have a tea party, pretend to cook, wash a baby, etc. Listen to your child and note if he is using jargon.

What did your child do?

