**Manchester Local Care Organisation**

**Children’s Speech and Language Therapy Service**

**Advice for Parents and Carers:**

**Parent and Child Interaction:**

**Add New Experiences and New Words**

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| *Top Strategies* | *How this Helps* |
| ***Copy the child’s sounds and words.*** | Using the same sounds and words your child uses helps encourage them to keep trying.  Try making animal or vehicle sounds to see if they copy you! |
| **Increase your child’s language:**  **Add more words** | *By adding a little bit extra on to your child’s words you are helping them to learn new words that they may then copy.*  Add more words to your child’s speech.  This helps them understand and encourages them to use more words. For example, if your child says "Car," you can say, "Yes, a **big** car." |
| **Figure out what your child is trying to say.** | *Letting your child hear the correct way to say the words that they are trying in a positive way, will encourage them to practice saying words.*  Look at all the ways your child is communicating with their body –their voice, their facial expression, their gestures.  What are they trying to communicate?  Say the words that your child is trying to communicate – this provides a language model.  For example, if your child reaches for their cup and makes a sound with their voice, you can say the words: “Want juice? OK.” Then give your child the cup.  Don’t make your child copy your speech. |