Useful websites:

https://www.slt.co.uk/what-we-treat/expressive-language-problems/

https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/signs-and-symptoms/

https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/ages-and-stages/

Supportive resources/ activities:

- Reading story books together, talking about the picture or what might happen next.
- Playing alongside your child with their favourite toys, creating narratives
- together or making a plan on how best to build something.
- When you are out and about together, talk about what you can see and what you're going to do. If necessary just narrate what is happening and watch as they start to join in with the commentary.

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EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

A guide for parents

What is Expressive Language?

Expressive Language refers to the language that someone says aloud. This can range from single words, to phrases or complete sentences.

A Little More Information

Expressive language helps us to share our thoughts, feelings, needs and ideas with others. It also encompasses nonverbal communication such as gestures and facial expressions. Expressive language skills develop from birth from where a baby is beginning to coo, cry and babble through to when a child is speaking in sentences able to communicate during play, tell stories or share how they are feeling. For a child who has expressive language differences or an expressive language delay the extent to which they are able to share how they feel may be limited. This ranges from children who are only able to say single words with lots of gesture through to children who's language skills may be very simple and lack a range of more challenging vocabulary.

Ways to support at home

Begin by creating an environment where there is always time to talk, without time constraints. Often questions can be a useful tool to help children to talk, however use these with caution as they can sometimes put on an added pressure for children to talk. A far more effective strategy is to comment about a subject as this invites a child to respond without the demand. Frequently model language using different vocabulary and correct grammar. You can also rephrase and model back a sentence that contains errors for example, if your child says "I goed to the shop" you can say "yes I went to the shop". You can also extend sentences or phrases that your child uses for example, if your child say "I eated it up" you could day "Yes you ate up all of your tomato pizza".

Dependent upon your child's level of expressive language it may be necessary to offer further supports for example, if your child is struggling to expressive themselves then offer a choice "Did you want to play with the Lego or the cars?" This enables them to express themselves and reduce feelings of frustration. You can also offer communication supports such as an aided language display or a device so they are able to make themselves known when they are struggling to say it aloud.

A speech and language therapist may work with a child to develop their vocabulary and semantics (a child's knowledge of age related vocabulary and it's meaning) word formation (relating to grammar and ability to change the formation of words to represent the correct tense) Sentence formation (relating to word order and ensuring that sentence contain the correct elements in order to be a sentence 'subject, verb, object'. Narrative skills (ability to retell a narrative or event clearly)