EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

Expressive Language refers to a person's ability to put words together in the correct order to form sentences, use grammar correctly (e.g., "he ate" not "him eated"), retell a story or an event, explain a situation/problem with adequate information, label objects in their environment, describe actions and events, and answer questions such as 'Who, What, When, Why and How?' with appropriate details.

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 (e.g., "umm, ah, 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
• 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
• Modeling appropriate sentences for them to imitate
• Talking to them about what you do throughout the day (e.g., "Now we need to go to the grocery store to get food for dinner")
• Having them take turns at telling stories to you/others
• When they make errors with grammar, repeat the phrase or sentence modeling correct grammar, and praise them when they make attempts to correct their grammar errors
• 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? When? Why? and How?"
• Playing word finding games where the child has to think of the words after we describe them
• Sharing time looking at and talking about books
• Spending time daily talking to them without distractions (e.g., TV, video games), such as when driving in the car or when sitting down at the dinner table together to talk about the day's events.