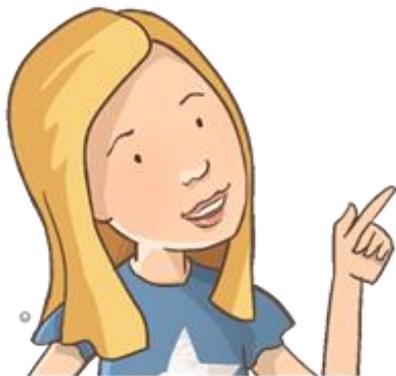


Using prompts to support children with language difficulties to access learning



Using prompts in a systematic way assists children to learn new skills. We only use prompts when necessary and only for as long as necessary. It is important to match the prompt with the amount of support your child needs to actively engage in the activity.

Level A and **Level B** prompts are low support strategies. They are used when you know your child has the language needed to engage in the activity and you are wanting to build on their language and thinking skills.

Level C and **Level D** prompts are high support strategies and are used when you know your child will find the language of that activity challenging.

In **Level A** prompts, indirect questions are asked that indicate to the child that a response is expected, but not exactly what that response might be. You might ask for example ...

And then?

What happened next?

Why do you think the author wrote those words in big, bold letters?

Actions may also be useful prompts.

For example, having your arms open wide may indicate you are looking for the response 'large' or 'enormous'.

Level B prompts are direct questions that will elicit a known response.

These questions are examples of Level B prompts.

Who is the story about?

What word means – two things that happened at the same time without planning?

Level B prompts may also involve providing the first sound of the target word

"His name is Tr..."

Level C prompts may involve a reducing choices strategy. These may be ...

*Cloze questions such as "He couldn't find his swimming goggles so he felt ...?"
"He is running because ...".*

or

Level C prompts can also be two-choice questions.

If it started raining lollipops at your house, would that be awful or wonderful?

Level D prompts use an eliciting strategy. In this prompt the adult provides an exact statement of what the child is to say or do.

Show me the jaw on the animal. This is the jaw. Angela, show me the jaw.

Here I have 2 words – dog and log. Dog and log rhyme. Tell me ... dog and log rhyme.

How do you use prompts effectively?

If your child pauses or doesn't provide an immediate response, wait at least 3 to 5 seconds before using a prompt. Your child may require extra time to think about and formulate what they want to say.