



Speech and Language Development - Film Transcript

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My name's Xenia Dennison and my background is in speech and language therapy. If I were to offer any tips around about how Bookbug Session Leaders could deliver their sessions, it would be to think about their style of delivery and what makes the language they're using as easy as possible for the children in the Bookbug session to understand. So what we'd maybe be looking for is a session leader to slow down what they're saying and if there's important words in the book or in the rhyme, emphasize those so that they stand out, so that they pop for the children, so that they recognise the words that are important to them. Alongside that, you can start to use some gestures.

So not only are you emphasizing the words, but you're starting to show what they mean as well. It gives a child a much richer understanding of what a word actually means and that's really, really helpful for them, so it's using the whole package. It's sort of total communication, rather than just the words on their own. Its actions, it's the word, it's how the word is said, it's what's going on round about you and all of this comes together. Now it's even more powerful if you can repeat that for children so that they get to hear the same words in the same way, with some gestures, several times so that that can help them to understand what it means. And that's where children learn from.

Once they understand a word really well, that's when they will be able to say it. So it's crucial that we repeat words and we make the words stand out for children.

A Bookbug Session is for parents and their children to come along and to relax and to enjoy something.

To slow down and spend that time together. It's 30 minutes, so... For me, I'm thinking that it would be a few songs that are repeated several times so that the children can get lots of chances to interact with the Bookbug Session Leader, with any activities that are going on, but also so that their parents or carers can listen again and start to reflect on how they might be able to use those skills when they take them home and use them again in their day-to-day life.

Because that's actually where the change is going to happen. People are coming to Bookbug to get ideas so that, we hope, that that will change how they behave all the time, every day.

So it's really important that we allow parents the time to do that and the children time to hear their songs and rhymes repeated. I think it's really important to encourage face-to-face interaction during a Bookbug session.

How else are parents going to be able to notice what their children notice?



They can follow their eye contact, they can share facial expression, they can then share their enjoyment of the song and rhyme. It's much easier to take turns with your child when you're face-to-face and when you can see them,

it's a much more natural way for an interaction to take place as well. So I think building that into a Bookbug session really helps that... that bond between parent and child to develop and ultimately that's where communication will grow from as well.

When you have a good connection you can start to point out the words for the thing that your child is noticing so if you see them look at something, you can give them the word for that and there's so much language that can develop and grow from interactions that are face-to-face.

I think Bookbug sessions make a huge contribution to children's development. I don't think it can be under-estimated, really, how valuable reading books and singing songs and rhymes are to children's development. And it's something that, now I think there's a risk that we don't do as much with the new technologies that are coming in. It's really about that opportunity for children to interact with the people that care about them and having that special time together. And the fact that Bookbug emphasizes that and shows people how to do it is just fantastic. So I think it's a really important contribution to society, really, that we've got a service like this that can help parents and carers learn how to share books and songs with their children.