

Encouraging listening in the early years

The use of Child Directed Speech / “Motherese”; how does it help; what does it promote? It appears to play an important part in supporting early listening and language development by:

- Gaining & maintaining auditory attention
- Acoustic highlighting of significant sounds and words
- Adjusting the pace and creating phrasing by segmenting language into meaningful chunks which aids comprehension and encourages attention and purpose for listening
- Repetition of key words / phrases
- Creating and identifying opportunities for conversational turns through audition and meaning
- Providing auditory feedback on child’s vocalisations / imitation
- Expanding incomplete utterances into mature ones giving immediate feedback often with the use of acoustic highlighting to give added emphasis to fleeting, unstressed yet vital parts of words and phrases.