





## What is Language Stimulation and Pretend Play?

Language stimulation is a set of techniques that are commonly used to support language development and acquisition in children. These include self-talk, paralleltalk, expansions and extensions, and are used to help children with both understanding and using English. A good way for a therapist to use these techniques is through pretend play.





**Pretend play** is also known as imaginative play, and it is where a child pretends that there is more happening than what's physically in front of them. For example, they might feed a doll by putting a spoon to its mouth, even though the doll is not alive and the spoon is empty. They might also pretend to be other people or characters, and create complex stories and challenges with these imaginary characters.

Throughout this process, children work on their language and social skills as they learn to communicate their ideas with each other and practice skills such as negotiation, compromise, conflict resolution, problem-solving and perspective taking.

## How Does It Work?

The group will be led by an experienced therapist, who will facilitate and guide the children to play together and communicate with each other. The therapist will provide modeling and guidance to help extend their play skills, as well as use language stimulation techniques to develop the appropriate vocabulary and grammar.







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