Tips for Facilitating Vocabulary Development

A resource guide on vocabulary development in young deaf and hard-of-hearing children

Visual Engagement and Attention

- Allow the child to shift gaze between you & an object/picture
- Keep all information in the child's view
- Move into the child's field of vision
- Wiggle fingers in front of the child
- Tap the child repeatedly

[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

Playful & Meaningful Interaction

- Look at books together & incorporate signs, fingerspelling, and gestures
  (e.g., pointing at pictures or tracing words)
- Other than names of things & people, incorporate opposites in daily activities
- Encourage turn taking, sign "my turn" & "your turn"
- Explain where you're going & what you're doing

[1]

Successful Activities

- Games are engaging and fun for children
- The primary goal is communication, so it is not always important to follow the rules, especially with young children
- Games and activities should match the child's attention span (increasing with age)

[1]

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