

'Scaffolding' is a really useful way to support children to move on to the next stage of language development.

It is particularly helpful in supporting speaking skills as practitioners can build on the language a child is already using and help them to extend it. There are 2 ways practitioners and parents can do this:

Modelling language

Listen to what the child is telling you ➡

"biderman felled"

Repeat back what they said, giving a model for the child ➡

"Yes! Spiderman fell down!"

Remember:

- ✓ Be positive and encouraging so the child doesn't feel 'corrected'
- ✓ If the just child points or uses a gesture, model the word they could use next time- *for example, if they pull you to something, say "come"*
- ✓ Emphasise particular sounds or words the child find difficult

Extending language

Listen to what the child is telling you ➡

"car"

Repeat back what they said, adding an extra word or two ➡

"Wow! The Car's fast!"

Remember:

- ✓ Only add 1 or 2 extra words otherwise the child may not understand or be able to copy
- ✓ If a child is only using nouns (names of things), try adding a verb (action word) to what they say to help them start to build sentences- *for example, "nana" ⇒ "yum, eat banana!"*

