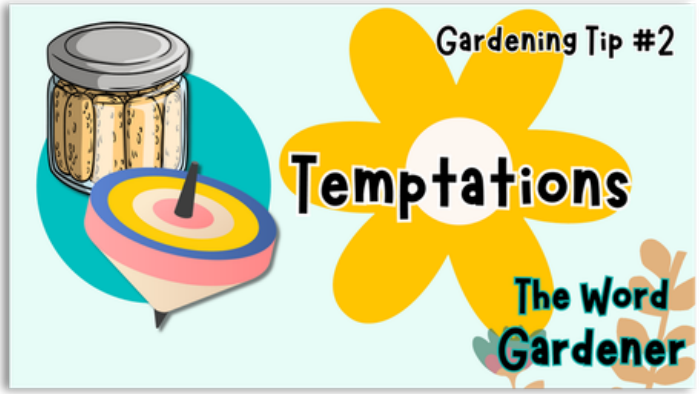
Temptations

*Helping words grow by creating a **reason** to communicate*



WHAT ARE TEMPTATIONS? In the context of *Word Gardening*, we are talking about **Communication Temptations.** These are everyday moments where an adult *sets something up* so a child **needs - or really wants** to communicate. You're simply creating a moment — then pausing.

To do this, you have to think about what REALLY MOTIVATES your child? What will get them BUSTING to communicate? The temptation should be really **INTERESTING, MOTIVATING and PROVIDE A CLEAR OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHILD TO COMMUNICATE.**

The resulting communication might be the child using **a look, a gesture, a sound or a word.** ***All of these count.***

WHY THIS HELPS WORDS GROW Children are more likely to communicate when: **they want something - or something unexpected happens - and an adult pauses instead of jumping in.** Temptations can turn passive play into interactive communication. You're tempting the child to initiate.

IMPORTANT: DON'T RUSH IN

As adults, we are excellent problem-solvers. We:

- **open things quickly**
- **fix problems immediately**
- **anticipate needs**

But when we do this, we can be removing the **need** to communicate.

INSTEAD TRY...

Setting up things the child wants but can't do or get themselves. Pausing. Give your child time to:

***notice**

***react**

***attempt communication**

THEN you can respond, maybe using Word Gardening Tip 1 or 4.

EVERYDAY EXAMPLES: TEMPTATIONS

Adult puts a favourite toy in a clear container with the lid screwed on tightly. Child wants the toy but can't open the container. Adult waits.

Adult blows bubbles, then suddenly stops and holds the wand. Child wants more. Adult waits.

Adult gives child a small snack — but not the whole lot then places the rest on a shelf out of reach. Child wants more. Adult waits.

Adult winds up a toy car and then gives it to child. Child wants the car to go again but can't do the winding. Adult waits.

When the child responds, the adult can THEN help provide the word/s . This might mean providing single words such as "Open" or "Go" or "More" etc...

HOMEWORK: Write 5 things that your child loves a lot that are present in your everyday routine. Think how you might set up 5 *communication temptations* around these. Tempt every day. In a fortnight, have any words grown?

REMEMBER - Communication Temptations:

- do NOT mean withholding a child's needs
- do NOT mean frustrating a child
- DO mean thinking of what will really motivate a child
- DO mean creating meaningful opportunities

The Word Gardener is a series of 12 evidence-based strategies to help early words grow.

Watch our Word Gardener series of tips on our YouTube channel youtube.com/@PelicanTalk
Find downloadable Word Gardening tips at pelicantalk.com/wordgardener

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