



SpeechWise

Supporting Expressive Language in the Classroom

Expressive language is how children use words, phrases, and sentences to share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas with others.



Why It Matters:

- Helps children participate and communicate effectively
- Supports reading, writing, and overall learning
- Builds confidence and social interaction
- Reduces frustration linked to language difficulties

Practical Ways to Help

Model clear language	Use full sentences with descriptive words. <i>“Put the pencils in the red box.”</i>
Expand children’s speech	If they say, “He runned,” respond with, “Yes, he ran very fast!”
Offer choices and questions	Encourage more words: <i>“Glue or scissors?”</i> / <i>“What might happen next?”</i>
Use visuals & gestures	Support understanding with pictures, labels, symbols & gestures
Encourage group talk	Promote interactions through small groups & role play
Build talk routines	Use “Show & Tell,” “Weekend News,” or sentence starters regularly in small groups or 1:1
Pause & wait	Allow 5-10 seconds for children to process & respond before you repeat or continue talking