EXPANDING

REPEAT WHAT THE CHILD SAID BUT ADD
1 – 2 WORDS OF YOUR OWN

Eg  Child:  I went shopping
Adult:  You went shopping yesterday
       You and mummy went shopping
       You went shopping at Tesco’s

USEFUL FOR:  
• Children who are using shorter phrases that peers
• Quite/reluctant children
• Bilingual children

WHEN TO USE:  
• No particular activity, whenever a child speaks to you

HOW TO DO:  
• Don’t make it sound like you are correcting them – start with ‘yes’ or ‘oh’
• Stress the words you are adding
• Add different types of words, eg verbs, nouns, adjectives
• For children using 4 or more word phrases you can add a whole phrase, eg ‘Oh, you went shopping and you bought some bananas’

WHY USE IT:  
• Encourages vocabulary and grammatical development
• Expanding gives the child a model of language structures which are one step further on in the development of their expressive language