



# Modelling and Recasting: Facilitating Speech and Language Learning

## Terminology

**Modelling:** The term has two meanings in a speech pathology sense. One is the everyday model (or example) of how to communicate that children get all the time. The other is modelling an example of a specific speech or language target.

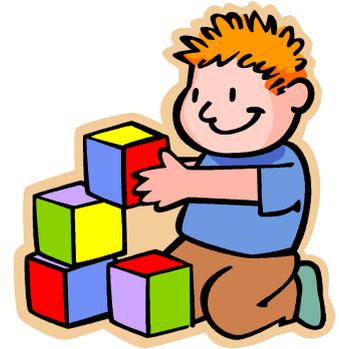
**Target:** It is a speech or language behaviour that we want to encourage the child to use when communicating. For example, the target might be a speech sound or a grammatical structure.

**Recasting:** Refers to repeating an error utterance back to someone but with the error corrected. It can be an effective form of modelling.

## What to do:

Provide a good model all the time means using:

- An unhurried speech rate
- Clear speech
- Short sentences
- Appropriate vocabulary
- More repetition and repeating than with an adult communicative partner.



The best way to model corrections (recasting):

Example One:

Child: I like his punny face.

Adult: I like his funny face too. It is a really funny face. I like the way the clown painted his funny face.

Example Two:

Child: Det it down.

Adult: Get what down? Oh, get this down. Ok, I'll get it down for you. I think I can reach. Uh-huh I can get it.

There is no overt criticism, no interruption to the flow of conversation and does not get in the way of listening.

Ideal frequency of recasting is at least three correct models for every error.

## What not to do:

Modelling with no model

Child: He hurt his weg.

Adult: He hurt his weg?

*In this example NO speech model has been provided*

Pointless modelling:

Child: That's a bid bird.

Adult: Not a bid bird. A big bird

*What did the child hear? Bid was hear twice and big only once!*

Exaggerates modelling:

Child: Pwease can I have one?

Adult: You mean pul-leeze. Puh-leeze may I have one?

*This exaggerated sort of modelling is inadvisable as it distorts the sound so the child does not hear the target properly*

Ineffective Modelling

Child: That's a bid bird.

Adult: Not a bid bird. You don't say bid bird. You have to remember to say big bird.

*The child tunes out. The child hears bid three times and big once (if they were listening!)*

