

SAY *what you think* *your* **CHILD MEANS**

- If your child does not use words, or you don't understand what was said, **say it as your child would if he/she could**
- Give your child a good, clear model of how the words should sound, without calling attention to the error. For example:

Child: "ba"

Parent: "**Bird**, yes there's the **bird!**"

- Give your child the words for sounds or gestures that he/she uses. For example:

Child: Reaches for juice and grunts "ah-ah"

Parent: Interprets that child wants juice and says, "Juice. Daddy Juice."
Parent then pours child juice.

Child: Screams and begins to cry when parent presents book at bed time.

Parent: Interprets that child does not want to read book and say, "No, no book!" Parent offers child a different book to read or another night time activity.

