Mirroring and Labeling Objects

Mirroring is imitating what your child is doing. This helps the adult join in the play and pace what they are saying.

Mapping is providing a language rich description of the play, the objects, and how objects move and change. When adults choose specific words to describe the play actions and what they are doing with the objects, this helps children learn.

We use this strategy when your child is playing, but isn't talking very much
This allows us to model things your child might want to say about the toy
This allows us the opportunity to teach object, location, and descriptive words

Mirroring (imitate play) and **labeling** (say the word as you point at the **object**)

Child's play turn:	stacks a block (play turn)
Adult's turn:	stacks a block (play turn), stops, points at the block, and says "block" (verbal turn)
Child's play turn:	rocks the baby
Adult's turn:	rocks the baby (play turn), stops, points at the baby, and says "baby" (verbal turn)

Mirroring (imitate play) and **mapping** (describe the **location or change** in the object)

Child's play turn:	stacks a block
Adult's turn:	stacks a block (play turn) and says "the block is on" (verbal turn) as the block goes on the tower
Child's play turn:	removes a block from the tower
Adult's turn:	removes a block (play turn) and says "the block is off" (verbal turn) as the block comes off the tower

Mirroring (imitate play) and **mapping** (describe the **action**)
It is important to use the pronoun or object name with the action verb, so it is clear who is doing the action

Child's play turn:	pretends to drink from a cup
Adult's turn:	pretends to drink from a cup (play turn) and says "we're drinking " (verbal turn)
Child's play turn:	puts the food in the puppets mouth
Adult's turn:	puts the food in the puppets mouth (play turn) and says "the puppet is eating" (verbal turn)

Keep playing and wait to see if your child takes a verbal turn. If your child does, respond. If your child doesn't, continue mirroring and labeling or mirroring and mapping.