



## **Why Parent Participation?**

Parents of children in CSLOT's EIC's are asked to spend at least 4 hours per month in the EIC with their child. This request differs from most parent participation programs in that participation is requested, not for the extra helping hands, although extra help is always welcome, but because our therapy goes farther when parents are there to learn to do at home what we do in the clinic. We know that children develop language in imitation of the speakers in their environment, and we also know that there are ways to speak to children which facilitate their language development. With parents in the room, our therapists can teach parents how to speak to their children. Numerous studies have borne this out, showing that vocabulary targets taught to parents result in larger vocabularies in their children, earlier use of multi-word utterances, and earlier use of grammatical markers. In addition, other studies have shown that when parents respond verbally to their children by using language modeling techniques, they increase their child's frequency of communicative interaction. With parental support, we expect to make greater and faster progress while taking advantage of these early years in which language develops naturally and spontaneously.