

Talking Tips

When you talk to your child during everyday activities it really helps them to learn i.e., bath time, mealtimes, nappy change

Don't put any pressure on your child to talk – they will learn by watching, listening and playing to start with.

For more information contact your local Speech and language Therapist or Children's Centre

Why wait?

Wait 10 seconds for your child to respond, sometimes children need time to think

You don't take over and control the conversation

You give your child time to talk and to express their interests and feelings



Why follow your child's lead?

Your child is more likely to learn if you talk about what they are interested in

It can reduce frustration, and your child will play with you for longer

It shows you are interested



Why make comments?

Unlike asking questions, commenting doesn't put your child under pressure to talk

You give your child language as they are experiencing it

Talk about what things are, what they do, how they feel and smell, etc...

Choices help your child learn new words, i.e., would you like a banana or apple?



Why use repetition?

Practice makes perfect

The more your child hears a word, the more likely they are to understand and use it



Why use simple language?

You're not bombarding them with too many words

You make it easier for your child to understand

They can hear the sounds in words clearly



Why get face to face?

You can see what your child is interested in

You can both hear and see different facial expressions and watch mouths move

Eye contact helps you to connect and feel closer to your child



Why add more words?

This allows your child to use more words

Adds to words that they can already say

If they say 'bike' you could say 'red bike' / 'big bike' / 'fast bike'



Why remove distractions?

Lets them concentrate on your voice

Gives them space to focus and process what they want to say

Reduces overwhelm

