

Top Tips for Talking

Expressive Language



Worcestershire Speech and Language
Early Years' Service

★	<p>Make time for play each day; this is how children learn their language. Put out a few toys and let them choose, play along and have some fun.</p>
★	<p>Get down to your child's level so you are face-to-face Use a tuneful, sing-song voice and lots of facial expression</p>
★	<p>Use single words Name toys and everyday objects that your child looks at, points to, hears or plays with. For example just label the things they see "bird", "plane" or "apple", but also remember action words, as your child is "eating", "washing" or "jumping".</p>
★	<p>Use short phrases Comment on games and activities using two or three words in a phrase. Just say "Harry's book" "cat sleeping" or "big red car", rather than "look there's a cat sleeping in his basket".</p>
★	<p>Repeat what you say Now and again, repeat your short phrases. Some games or activities are good opportunities for repeating phrases. Try "my go" as you roll a ball or "more bubbles" as you blow bubbles. But don't ask them to copy and repeat after you or "say".</p>
★	<p>Expand and add more words If your child says "car", say "yes mummy's car" or "driving car". Just add one or two more words than your child says.</p>
★	<p>Pause and comment on your child's play Sit alongside and talk and say what you see; "dolly's eating tea" or "car's going fast". Comment, but leave time for your child to respond. Their answers may be just smiles, giggles, eye contact or pointing to something new.</p>
★	<p>Reduce questions Reduce the pressure on your child by asking fewer questions. Make a comment instead. So rather than asking 'what does this do or say?' Say "the dog goes woof woof".</p>
★	<p>Model If they say a sentence or word "incorrectly", don't tell them it's wrong, just say it back to them with the correct grammar so they have something to copy and learn from.</p>
★	<p>Don't say "say..." Don't put your child on the spot by frequently asking them to "say...(duck)". Simply provide the name for them if they seem to be unsure, before long they will have learnt it and begin to say it spontaneously themselves.</p>
★	<p>Talk about everyday activities Talk as you do daily jobs, and while you're out and about. Children will pick up words more easily if they hear them used with everyday activities.</p>

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