

# Top Tips for Talking



Worcestershire Speech and Language  
Early Years' Service

★	<p><b>At home</b> Your child will find it easier to concentrate in quiet areas and you will get the best from them.</p>
★	<p><b>Turn off the technology</b> It's hard for children to listen to language and block out noise from technology e.g. TV, iPads, laptops, phones etc.</p>
★	<p><b>Make time</b> Make time to play with your child for 5 -10 minutes a day, focus on their interests by sitting on the floor facing them.</p>
★	<p><b>Limit toys</b> 'Less is more' so have a small selection of toys out at one time to help to keep your child's attention.</p>
★	<p><b>Secure attention</b> Get down to your child's level first, then say their name to make sure they are really listening to you, "John, shoes on".</p>
★	<p><b>Follow their lead</b> Your child's attention may be attracted by things in a different part of the room so move with them!</p>
★	<p><b>Pause and comment on your child's play</b> Sit alongside and talk and say what you see; "dolly's eating tea" or "car's going fast". Comment, but <b>leave time and space</b> for your child to respond.</p>
★	<p><b>Reduce questions</b> Reduce the pressure on your child by asking fewer questions. Make a comment instead. Instead of 'what does this do or say? Say "the dog goes woof woof"</p>
★	<p><b>Remove dummies</b> It's really hard to talk with your mouth full! When your child is trying to talk remove their dummy (the same goes for drinks, bottles and food).</p>
★	<p><b>Use simple sentences</b> Keep language short and simple. Stress key words and add interest to your voice e.g. "teddy eating, teddy jumping!"</p>
★	<p><b>Talk about everyday activities</b> 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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