

# Top Tips for Talking

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### Play face to face

This helps your child to see that you are interested. They can see the shapes your mouth makes when you are using sounds and saying words. It also helps them to listen to what you are saying.

### Follow your child's lead

When your child is interested they will listen to what you are saying. This helps them with words.

### Offer choices

This gives your child the opportunity to use their communication. This might be the word, a reach or a point. All of these are important communication skills. Respond to them all and say the word for the item they have chosen.

### Interpret

Say it as your child would if they could. This shows your child you are interested and listening. When you interpret you also give words linked to the situation which helps their talking.

### Commenting and questions

Commenting shows your child how to use the word as well as be introduced to some new words. Comment by labelling what they are looking at and playing with. Try to expand by adding a word. Remember to repeat so that your child hears the words lots of times.

### Use language at your child's level

This means adjusting your words to your child's level. If your child is using single words then try to use 2-3 words. and if your child is saying 3 words at a time try to use 4 word sentences. This helps your child to understand and keeps their words developing.

### Repeat

Before using a word your child needs to hear that word over and over again. This helps them to understand the word and then begin to say it again.

### Imitate

Copying your child's early sounds or word attempts helps them to keep trying. It also helps them to learn about taking turns.

### Use actions and gestures

Point to things you are talking about, use gestures such as 'bye' and 'all gone'. They help your child to understand what your words are linked to.

### Give your child time to respond

Children need some extra time to think about what they want to say. Give them some extra time. Counting to 5 can help you to give this extra time.

### Reduce background noise

Televisions, radios, tablets and phones can all be distracting to children and to us. This can mean children find it harder to listen to your words. Switch off and put technology away - your child will learn about talking from you.

### Throw dummies away

Learning to talk is much easier without a dummy in your mouth.