

General Talking Tips

Help your child develop good language and communication skills with these tips:

- Don't forget to talk to your child at all times, for example, when you're playing together. can talk about them afterwards or encourage your child to act them out.
- Make sure that your child is listening to you when you want to talk to him. Remember to look and listen to your child when they try to talk to you.
- Add words when your child says something, e.g. if they said 'ball' you might say, 'Yes, a red ball.'
- To encourage listening skills, help them by listening together to different sounds, such as cars and animals. Try going for a 'listening walk'.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs together, and use actions, puppets and pictures to help your child join in.
- Wait for your child to talk. Children take longer than adults to process language. (This can be up to eight seconds)
- Build their vocabulary by giving choices, e.g. 'Do you want juice or milk?' Try to create a 'need' to talk rather than anticipating what your child wants.
- Try not to have constant background noise during the day e.g. turn the television off when no-one is watching it.
- Talk about things as they happen, e.g. when you're both unpacking the shopping, loading the washing machine etc.
- Limit TV to ½ hour per day for under 2 year olds. Watch programmes together so you
- If your child says something incorrectly, say it back the right way, e.g. 'Goggy bited it.' 'Yes, the dog bit it, didn't he?'

Please note, while the information contained in these leaflets has been created by a Speech and Language Therapist, it is intended to complement the advice of professional healthcare staff.