



Get Talking! Helpful hints and tips.

Speech, Language and Communication skills are developed initially at home and continue to be built on throughout life. Meaningful interactions help to create quality relationships. This can be achieved really easily at home by following some of these suggestions.

Follow the child's lead;

- Provide different toys and/or activities such as board games, colouring, reading books, Lego or even ingredients to make cakes.
- Allow your child to decide what they want to do. Try to give them this freedom of choice.
- Join in alongside your child.
- Let them take the lead and show you what they enjoy doing.

Start a conversation;

Listening and speaking are skills that we continue to develop even as adults. It's easy to ask our children a question but are we really *listening* to their reply? We can all be guilty of getting distracted while cooking dinner, washing up etc.

- Set out some time with no other distractions. ten minutes with no TV, phones, tablets etc.
- Sometimes just listening is enough to show our children that we *are* interested in what they are telling us.
- Comment on something they have said, ask simple questions and most importantly, give your child time to answer.

Story Telling;

- Share a book with your child, take it in turns to read. If your child struggles to read the book, ask them to read the book from the pictures, make it up!
- Talk about the feelings and consequences that happened to characters in the story and see if they can be related to yourself and to your children's own experiences.
- You could even work together to find a different ending to the story.



