



TEN TOP TIPS FOR TALKING

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Here are some ideas that you can use to support your child's language development. Try to incorporate as many of these as you can into your everyday routine.

- 1 Keep your language simple** at a similar level to your child eg if your child is using single words, you should use one-two word sentences when talking to your child.
- 2 Talk to your child when you are playing.** Even if your child is not talking very much, you can **describe how you are playing** eg *"teddy eating"* *"train driving"*.
- 3 When your child does talk, repeat the utterance back and add another word** to show your child how to expand their language eg if your child says *"dolly"* you could say *"yes, dolly's sleeping"*.
- 4 Encourage your child to communicate in any way** eg pointing, facial expression, gesturing, not just through words.
- 5 Give your child opportunities** to talk by waiting before you speak and by giving choices eg *"do you want orange or blackcurrant?"*. Try not to anticipate what your child wants/needs.
- 6 If your child says a word incorrectly, say it back the right way.** Don't make your child repeat it.
- 7 Talk about things as they happen** eg getting dressed, having a bath, going shopping, washing the clothes etc.
- 8 To support the development of your child's attention and listening skills, sing nursery rhymes and songs.** You can also encourage your child to listen to different sounds eg aeroplanes, animals, sirens.
- 9 Gain your child's attention** first when you want to talk together.
- 10 Try to have a special time** with your child each day to play with toys and look at picture books.

