

Talking and Language Development

Good communication and language development is vital for all children and encouraging and developing that in your child is important for their future learning. Having good language development will help in reducing frustrations as the children can articulate how they are feeling and how they can negotiate and understand another point of view.

You don't need to be an expert to help your child develop good communication skills. All you need is a listening ear and the willingness to chat to your child whenever you can!

Additional Information

Here are some top tips and benefits of talking with your baby and young child.

- Talk to your child when you're playing together.
- Get into their zone and talk about what they are looking at or playing with – they will learn language faster that way.
- Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs, especially those with actions.
- Encourage your child to listen to different sounds, such as cars and animals. This will help your child's listening skills.
- Gain your child's attention when you want to talk.
- Increase vocabulary by giving choices, e.g. "Do you want juice or milk?"
- Talk about things as they happen, e.g. when you're both unpacking the shopping.
- Listen carefully and give your child time to finish talking. Take turns to speak.
- Always respond in some way when your child says something.
- Help your child to use more words by adding to what they've said, e.g. if they said "ball" you might say, "Yes, it is a big, red ball."
- 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?"
- Try and have special time with your child each day to play with toys and picture books.
- Limit TV time. Try to watch TV together so you can talk about what happens.

You could also play games focused around increasing language development by exploring 'would you rather' questions - can you explain why you would rather one choice over another? Can your child? Can you think of your own 'would you rather' questions.