



Top Tips for Talking

Everyone wants their child to be able to talk and communicate well, but it's not always easy to know the right ways to help. Try our 'Top Tips' to help your child grow into a confident communicator.

- Talk to your child during your **everyday activities**, describing what is happening and what they can see.
- Children learn best when we **give them the words they need** rather than asking them what things are e.g. "Look, duck!" rather than "What's that?"
- Use **actions** and **gestures** when you speak to help your child listen and understand



- Play alongside your child, watching what they do and **adding in sounds and words** e.g. "choo choo", "yum yum", "cat", "wet"
- Sing songs and rhymes together in your language, using actions to help your child join in.
- **Share books** with your child – talking about the pictures helps keep them interested even if they do not want to listen to the whole story

- **Reduce background noise** as this will help your child to listen and focus on what others are saying.
- **Limit screen time** (phones, tablets, TV) and switch off when you're not watching – too much can affect children's ability to listen.

