

Help your child with

language and communication

Eye contact

Let your child know that you are really listening to them by getting down to their level and making eye contact when talking to them.

Recast

Rather than correcting your child when they make a mistake, recast back to them what they said correctly. You can also add in extra information. If your child says, 'where car?' you could respond, 'Where is your car? Here is your red car. Look how fast it can go!'

Take the dummy out

Dummies can be comforting for some children when they are tired or upset. But they can also stop the child from speaking clearly. If your child uses a dummy, try to limit it to nap times and bedtime.

Wait time

Your child might need a few seconds of 'wait time' to process what has been said and think of their response. Try counting to 5 slowly in your head after asking your child a question. This ensures that you are giving them enough 'wait time'.

Interactions

Talking to your child is the most important thing you can do to support their language and communication development. Mealtimes, bedtime or when your child is watching TV are all fantastic opportunities to talk with your child.

Wow words

There is a link between young children with larger vocabularies and later literacy achievement. By using 'wow words' with your child, you will be helping them to develop their vocabulary.

Experiences

Take your child for a walk to the park, to the shops or to the library and let them experience different places and activities. Talk to them about where you are going, what you are doing and what you can see.