

Top Tips for Talking

A Unique Child

- Follow your Child's lead.
- Join in with your child's play or mirror their action.
- Focus on what your child is looking at or doing.
- Wait and allow your child time to start the conversation.
- Take turns to communicate so that adults and children both get a turn at talking.

Positive Relationships

- Build up your child's sentences by repeating what they say and adding words.
- Give choices to increase vocabulary, e.g. 'apple or satsuma?'
- If your child says something inaccurately, acknowledge what they have said and repeat it back in the correct way.

Enabling Environment

- Get down to your child's level - it's easier to talk if you are face to face.
- Get your child's attention before you start to talk.
- Make sure you use lots of statements and fewer questions.

Learning and Development

- Plan a variety of interesting activities so that there is plenty to talk about.
- Use daily routines to repeat and emphasise basic language.
- Listen to sounds around you and play games that encourage listening.
- Have fun together with songs and rhymes.

Adapted from ECoT Guidance for Early Language Lead Practitioners - 2008