



Communication and language

Good communication is essential for learning. As well as being the foundation to reading and writing, it is also vital for children's social and emotional development. Being able to talk about what they think and explain how they feel is so important. Good communication has a positive impact on behaviour allowing children to express their wishes, feelings and concerns.

Some ideas of things you could do at home:

- Give your child lots of opportunities to make decisions, give opinions and discuss feelings such as would they prefer toast or cereal for breakfast?
- Reading together daily including magazines, signs and catalogues.
- Encourage role- play such as acting out real life roles like doctors or teachers.
- Playing with other children as this teaches children about cooperation, collaboration and negotiation - all vital skills for good communication.
- Talking together - at the end of the day encourage your child to talk about what they have done.

Here are some useful website with videos and activities to help support developing communication and language at home.

- The National Literacy Trust's programme, Small Talk, aims to support language development of children under five
www.small-talk.org.uk/
- Tiny Happy People offers simple activities and play ideas to help develop your child's communication skills
www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people
- Activities for children age 0-5 to support
www.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/

