Manchester Local Care Organisation

Top Tips for Talking!

Talking and playing with your child is good for them!

Make it easy for them to talk

Dummies can get in the way of talking so take it out to talk. Try to keep them just for sleeptimes.

Comments not questions

Asking lots of questions can feel like it's a test. Comment on what they are doing and what's happening e.g. '*throw the ball*'– they are more likely to copy this way.

Make it easy for them to listen

Turning off the TV/Radio/Ipad helps children to focus on your words.

Use simple language

Keep your sentences short e.g. '*Food time now*' and slow down your talking- your child will be more likely to understand, learn and remember the words.

Give them time to talk

Children need more time to think about what they've heard, decide what to say back and then respond. Give them time and look at them while you wait so they know you're listening.

Say it again and again

Babies and toddlers need to hear words and sentences lots of times to understand, them and learn new words.

Speak in your home language

It's important for children to learn their fist words and sentences in their home language. They will learn English later at Nursery or School.

Don't worry if they pronounce it wrong

Listen to what your child says, not how they say it. Say the word correctly for your child and they will soon learn for themselves.

Child- '*Tar*' Adult- '*Yes, a car*'

Follow your child's lead

So that you child knows you are sharing their interest. If children are interested in what they're playing with they're more likely to listen and communicate with you.



Have fun together

Play, read books and sing nursery rhymes. Use actions, make noises and be silly! - this gets their attention and makes them laugh.

Get your child's attention

Sit with your child face to face. Say their name before talking. Talk about something you can both see– this helps them to learn what words mean.

Give choices

This gives children the chance to communicate

E.g. '*would you like banana or apple?*'

Build on what they say

Adding one or two words to what the child has said helps them onto the next stage of talking.

Child- '*Bus*'

Adult- '*Yes, big bus*'

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