

Top Tips for Talking



Worcestershire Speech and Language
Early Years' Service

★	<p>At home Your child will find it easier to concentrate in quiet areas and you will get the best from them.</p>
★	<p>Turn off the technology It's hard for children to listen to language and block out noise from technology e.g. TV, iPads, laptops, phones etc.</p>
★	<p>Make time Make time to play with your child for 5 -10 minutes a day, focus on their interests by sitting on the floor facing them.</p>
★	<p>Limit toys 'Less is more' so have a small selection of toys out at one time to help to keep your child's attention.</p>
★	<p>Secure attention Get down to your child's level first, then say their name to make sure they are really listening to you, "John, shoes on".</p>
★	<p>Follow their lead Your child's attention may be attracted by things in a different part of the room so move with them!</p>
★	<p>Pause and comment on your child's play Sit alongside and talk and say what you see; "dolly's eating tea" or "car's going fast". Comment, but leave time and space for your child to respond.</p>
★	<p>Reduce questions Reduce the pressure on your child by asking fewer questions. Make a comment instead. Instead of 'what does this do or say? Say "the dog goes woof woof"</p>
★	<p>Remove dummies It's really hard to talk with your mouth full! When your child is trying to talk remove their dummy (the same goes for drinks, bottles and food).</p>
★	<p>Use simple sentences Keep language short and simple. Stress key words and add interest to your voice e.g. "teddy eating, teddy jumping!"</p>
★	<p>Talk about everyday activities Talk as you do daily jobs, and while you're out and about. Children will pick up words more easily if they hear them used with everyday activities</p>

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