

Top 10 tips for talking with your child

1. Try not to ask too many questions!

E.g., Instead of saying 'What did you do at nursery today?' try to use a comment:
'That's a nice painting.'

or give a choice such as 'I wonder... did you play in the garden or inside today?'

2. Have fun with songs and nursery rhymes, especially those with actions. Children love to hear the same songs over and over again

3. Encourage your child to have some quiet time and listen to different sounds

E.g., Aeroplanes, animals, the postman, microwave

4. Gain your child's attention when you want to talk together.

E.g., Call their name, give eye contact, get down to their level.

5. Children learn speech sounds gradually – saying the whole word back to a child is the best way to encourage language rather than correcting them E.g., They say 'Bish', you could say 'Yes a fish'

6. Increase your child's vocabulary by giving choices, e.g., 'Do you want milk or juice?' or 'Would you like to put on your scarf or hat?' Make sure you show your child the items you are offering.

7. Talk about everyday activities as they are happening, like putting away the shopping, bathing, washing the car, waiting for the bus.

8. Take turns to speak, listen carefully and give your child time to finish.

9. Help your child to use more words by adding on to what is already said

E.g., If your child says 'juice' you could say 'more juice?', 'or 'juice gone.'

10. Turn off the TV/phone and try and have a special time (5 mins) with your child each day to play with toys and read books etc.