

Early Years Team

Top tips for speech and language development

Let your child choose a toy. Follow what he/she wants to do. Copy his/her ideas and actions.

Why?

Allows the child time to think

Let's the child explore and become confident in 'trying things out'

Doing it ourselves is the best way to learn

Allows the child to be creative

Values the child's attempt to communicate

Avoid asking lots of questions

Give your child extra silence - wait for him/her to communicate with words/sounds/gestures/eye contact.

Why?

Gives the child time for thinking about words and actions

Let the child try to do it for themselves and to succeed

The child can start/lead their play and let you know when they want you to talk to them

The child is more likely to have a go at saying noises/sounds/words

Sit where your child can see your face.

Why?

Makes the child feel important

Encourages the child to interact/communicate

The child can see your face and how your mouth is moving for speech

Name what he/she is playing with e.g. "car".

Why?

Gives the child the word at the best time for them to learn it (using lots of different senses e.g. seeing, feeling, smelling, etc.)

It helps you to slow down your own rate of speech which can be particularly useful for children who stammer.

Repeat what your child says and add a word, for example if they say "car" you can say "red car".

Why?

Helps them to learn new words

Helps language move to the next level