

PATIENT INFORMATION

Tips for Parents to support Language Development

Speech and Language Therapy Factsheet

The ideas below will help you to support your child's language development. Some of these ideas are useful whatever the age of your child – others are particularly useful for younger children.

If you are at all worried about your child's speech and language development find out what to do.

Here are the tips:

- Talk to your child when you are playing together.
- Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs, especially those with actions.
- Encourage your child to listen to different sounds such as cars, animals, and the telephone.
- Gain your child's attention when you want to talk together.
- Encourage your child to communicate in any way, not just through words.
- Increase vocabulary by giving choices, e.g., 'Do you want orange or blackcurrant?'
- Talk about things as they happen, e.g., when you are both unpacking the shopping.
- Listen carefully and give your child time to finish. Take turns to speak.
- Always respond in some way when your child says something.
- Help your child to use more words by adding to what is said, e.g., if your child says 'Ball' you might say, 'Yes, throw me the ball.'
- If your child says something incorrectly, say it back the right way, e.g., 'Goggy bit it' 'Yes the dog bit it, didn't he?'
- Try and have a special time with your child each day to play with toys and picture books.

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For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.
