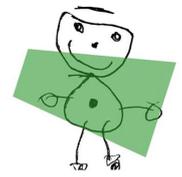


A parent/carer's guide to.....



Caverstede | Early Years Centre

Top Talking Tips

- ◆ Allow your child to take the lead when you play together – this will keep them motivated and they'll develop crucial thinking and language skills through their play.
- ◆ Give your child time – they might need more time than you think to answer questions or follow instructions, so give them an extra few seconds to do this.
- ◆ Share books together – interactive books with flaps or different textures are really great.
- ◆ Younger children might find it difficult to tell you about their day at school. To support them, try giving choices like 'did you paint a picture or play in the sand?' or ask 'tell me one good thing that happened today; You could say one good thing about your day too, just to get the conversation going.
- ◆ Use repetition; children need to hear words several times in different situations before they can understand them and use them.
- ◆ Try setting aside some specific time talking time, with the TV off, just for talking and playing together.



- ◆ Repeat and expand on what your child says – e.g. if your child says 'mummy car' you could say 'mummy's driving the car' this helps children learn how to put words together to make sentences they can understand and use them.

- ◆ Think out loud – talk to your child about what you're doing and when you're doing it, that way they will begin to match what they hear to the object or the action that you're talking about.
- ◆ Encourage turn taking during games; you can make it clear what you're doing by explaining 'my turn now' and telling your child when they've done well at waiting for their turn.
- ◆ Demonstrate rather than correct. If your child says something incorrectly, repeat what they've said, but in the correct way and try to keep it in the conversation. You can do this with individual words, e.g. if they say 'tat' you can repeat 'yes you saw a cat', or sentences e.g. if they say 'the dog runned' you can say, 'yes the dog ran, didn't it.'
- ◆ Think about your non-verbal communication - your facial expressions, body language and tone of voice are great ways of showing your child that you are interested in what they say as well as helping them to keep their interest.
- ◆ Use rhymes and singing - sing your child's favourite nursery rhyme with them. Try to sing it slowly to help your child listen to the words of the rhyme. If you can use actions too, this will help your child to understand the words better.

