



Promoting Language and Communication at home.

Children thrive on 5:
Attention and listening
Vocabulary
Building sentences
Telling stories
Conversations



Speaking and listening

- Offer a description or clues and get your child to identify what you are describing. E.g. we use it to sweep the floor → a broom. It is cold and sweet and good for desert → ice-cream.
- Whilst shopping, discuss what you need to buy, what you will make with these items, what sounds/pictures can you see on the packaging?
- Play 'I-spy with my little eye.'
- Play 'I think with my big brain something beginning with ...' (think of an object that you cannot see) If your child can hear initial sounds – play this game by saying the first sound. E.g. something beginning with p. .pencil. If your child does not yet know their initial sounds, play this game by saying the colour. E.g. something that is blue. . .
- Reluctant speakers: Use comments rather than questions. E.g. talk about what they are doing or what you are seeing.
- Pretend you don't know how to do somethings and get your child to give you instructions.
- Get a wooden spoon and pretend it's a microphone. Ask a simple question, e.g. what is your favourite toy? The rules: only the person with the 'microphone' can talk. All others must listen.

- Rhyming words: Can you hear any rhyming words in the stories you share (Julia Donaldson books). Take turns to say rhyming words (cat, sat, mat. . .) The repetitive chanting, reading, writing or hearing of rhymes promotes good listening skills and memory retention.
- Nursery rhymes – Incy Wincy Spider, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Miss Polly had a Dolly, Wind the Bobbin Up, Tommy Thumb
- Action songs – Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, The Wheels on the Bus.

“IF A CHILD KNOWS 8 NURSERY RHYMES BY HEART BY THE TIME THEY ARE 4 YEARS OLD, THEY ARE USUALLY AMONG THE BEST READERS AND SPELLERS IN THEIR CLASS BY THE TIME THEY ARE 8”.

CREDIT: MEGAN FOX, READING MAGIC



Early reading

- Read a bedtime story **everyday**.
- Children love it when you share stories together, it will make it more exciting for your child if you have fun using your voice. Encourage your child to echo read – can they mimic say using the same voice?
- You could read labels in shops, stories in bed, signs in the street, ask your library about rhyme time.
- Role play together. Re-enact familiar stories and make up your own.
- When reading familiar stories, leave the last word in the sentence for your child to fill in. You could support them with an action.



Top tips

- Say their name first. Make sure they are listening and then give them speak with them. Maintain eye contact when you are talking. This models that you are actively listening to each other.
- Reduce the background noise and distractions as much as possible as children cannot filter these as well as adults can.
- Sometimes we need to reduce the amount we are saying in one sentence to help our children listen and successfully follow instructions.
- As an important role model, it is essential that you speak in clear sentences. Use specific language, e.g. the green chair, rather than empty words e.g. the one over there.
- The key to building vocabulary is lots of repetition.
- Make sure you praise your child for good listening or good speaking.

