

Top Tips for supporting your child with their language development...

1. Sing nursery rhymes with actions. These connect language to actions and help your child's understanding and memory.
2. Talk about everyday activities e.g. putting away the shopping. This helps your child to connect language to the world around them.
3. Remember to ask more open-ended questions to encourage more language use.
4. Talk at their level, get down on the floor and play with them. This encourages eye contact and all that extra non-verbal communication.
5. Use correct vocabulary e.g. cow instead of moo moo, dog instead of doggie.
6. Read, read, read. Books are a good way to promote speech development – look at pictures together and describe what they can see. Don't be afraid to tell a story more than once, repetition helps your child to understand and remember the language that she hears.
7. Children learn speech sounds gradually – saying the whole word back to your child is the best way to encourage language and speech development rather than correcting them.
8. Often children can be frustrated when adults don't understand them. Be patient, wait for them to finish what they are saying or trying to show you.
9. Beware! Remember your children will copy what you say and how you say it. You are their role models.
10. It is also helpful for your child if they can see your face when you are talking to them – this helps your child to watch and copy the movements that your lips make as you say sounds and words.
11. 5 minutes of quality interactions is better than 30 minutes of constant interruptions! Put your phones away!