

## **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!**