

Tip 7: Ask Good Questions

Use questions that keep the conversation going e.g.

- Where shall we put the ball?

Try not to use too many testing questions 'what's this?' 'what colour is this' - **use comments instead**

If your child can't answer the question answer it for him/her so that they can hear the words they need.



Tip 8: Repeat

- Practice makes perfect.
- The more your child hears a word, the more likely they are to understand, then use it.



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Speech and Language Therapy Talking Tips

When you talk to your child during everyday activities it really helps them to learn.

e.g. bath time, mealtimes, nappy change

Don't put any pressure on your child to talk—they will learn by watching, listening and playing to start with.

Tip 1: Get Face to Face

- *It is easier to make eye contact*
- *You can see what your child is interested in*
- *Your child feels you are playing with him / her*
- *You can both hear and see different facial expressions and watch mouth movements.*



Tip 2: Follow you child's lead

It will help you:

- Learn what interests your child

It will help your child

- Learn more if you talk about what they are interested in.
- Pay attention for longer
- It can reduce frustration

Tip 3: Use Simple Language

This will help your child to:

- *Understand what you are saying*
- *Hear the sounds in words correctly*
- *Begin to copy the sentences*



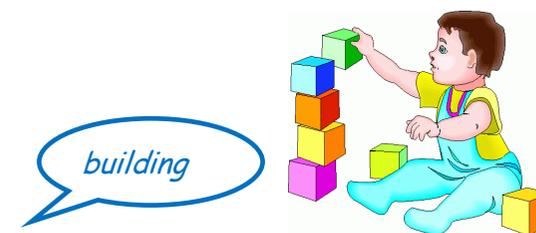
Tip 4: Wait

(for you child to take a turn)

- *It shows your child that he/she has an equally important part to play in talking*
- *It gives your child time to think*
- You don't take over and control the conversation.
- You give your child time to talk, and to express their interests and feelings

Tip 5: Comment

- Commenting doesn't put your child under pressure to talk.
- It gives your child language as they are experiencing it.
- Talk about what things are, what they do, how they feel and smell etc.
- Choices help your child learn new words 'would you like a banana or apple?'



Tip 6: Add words

Add words to what your child says and does this will help your child to:

- Learn and use new words
- Learn to put words together
- If they say 'bike' you could say 'red bike', 'big bike' or 'fast bike.'

(to help babies learn new sounds copy their sounds and then add one of your own e.g. 'baba...dada')

