

# Developing language at home.

## Top Tips!

Communication is an important part of children's learning and development. Children need to be able to understand and be understood. It allows children to build relationships and is essential for learning, play and social interaction. There are many ways that we can support spoken language at home:

### Top Tip 1:

#### Repeat! Repeat! Repeat!

Children have to hear words many times before they learn their meaning so **Repetition** is key:

'Stamp, stamp, stamp. Clap, clap, clap.'

If they make a mistake, try very hard not to correct them, instead model for them what you *want* to hear:

'Its wed Mummy!'

'It is red, you're right'

Repetition teaches children to practice, master and retain. It also provides the opportunity for practice and reinforcement of new knowledge, words and sentences.



#### Look at me!

<https://youtu.be/5e5Shcl4YnQ>

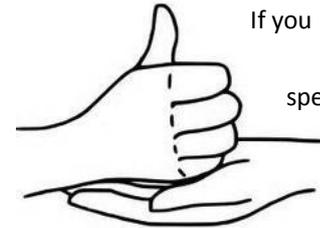
[www.communicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.communicationtrust.org.uk)

[www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)

[www.literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/)



# help



If you have any concerns about your child's speech and Language development you can find information about

local **Chatter Time** groups on the Evelina London website: [www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk)

#### Fun fact!

*Some studies suggest that young children need to hear words from **four to 250 times** before they can accurately use them in their speech.*

### Top Tip 2:

#### Levels.

The benefits of coming down to your child's level when communicating are:

- ◆ Teaching good eye contact and engagement by being face to face
- ◆ He/she can see your face and read your reactions to their words and actions
- ◆ Being on the same level helps you to experience the world from their perspective, which in turn allows you to understand your child better
- ◆ Builds confidence to try new language they have heard you say to them

### Top Tip 3:

#### Play with me.

Play is one of the main ways in which children learn. It helps to build self worth by giving a child a sense of his or her own abilities and to feel good about themselves.

Because its fun based children become very absorbed in their play, this helps children to develop the following skills:

- ◆ The ability to concentrate
- ◆ Imagination
- ◆ Attention levels
- ◆ Socially and emotionally
- ◆ Friendship circles
- ◆ Focused language skills
- ◆ motor skills
- ◆ self expression



### Top Tip 5:

#### The power of Non Verbal language.

Makaton is a visual way to develop communication skills, which helps stimulate sounds and words. This way of communicating in turn helps to encourage understanding of words as well as language development, e.g. putting words together.

Makaton gives the child or adult an extra visual clue of what you are saying, as well as confirming their understanding.

Symbols are used widely in everyday life as a kind of visual language. Road signs, clothing labels, or direction symbols are examples of how symbols can convey information quickly and effectively.

Symbols can be read, regardless of the person's language or literacy skills. People with communication difficulties may benefit from using symbols to understand what other people are saying, as well as to express what they want to say.

Gestures are an important part of our visual picture when we speak.

They are reinforcements of the words and ideas we are trying to convey and a non-verbal representation of how we feel.

### Top Tip 4:

#### Language Galore.

In the school setting we welcome bilingualism. Children who are bilingual tend to have:

- ◆ Well developed self-esteem
- ◆ Increased problem solving abilities
- ◆ Flexible ways of thinking
- ◆ Creative language
- ◆ Good understanding of language generally

#### **Should you be concerned if your child mixes the languages?**

The answer is no, this is a completely natural part of your child's development!

Some mixing will occur, but it is both harmless and temporary. As your child increases their vocabulary in each language, this will automatically disappear.

#### **What can you do?**

Just be consistent and model language well, so your child hears and learns a rich variety of words and sentences.

