

Speech, Language and Communication Toolkit

Information and guidance for parents and carers

Everyday Tips to Support your Child's Communication



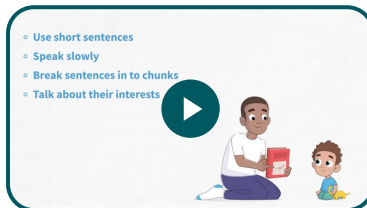
Part of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Change Partnership Programme across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

Top tips for Communication 0-5 years

Children develop their early communication skills through the people in their life interacting with them, and providing them with lots of opportunities to communicate back. This means families play a really important part in supporting children to develop their communication skills.

Let's Get Talking: Video guide for parents

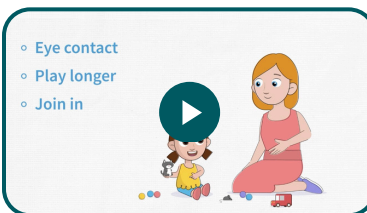
Each short video provides simple, effective strategies to support your child's early communication development. Watch in just a few minutes and try them out during everyday interactions:



Keep it Simple

- Use short, clear sentences
- Instead of: "let's get your shoes on and put them on" say "shoes on"
- Pitch your language at their level

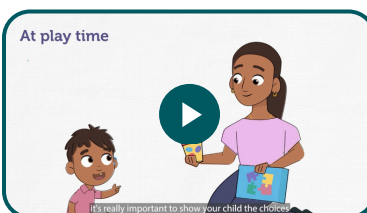
Why? Simple language helps your child understand and learn new words.



Following Your Child's Lead

- Watch what your child is interested in
- Let them take the lead in play
- Join in and use words related to what they are doing

Why? Children learn best when they are engaged and having fun.



Giving Choices

- Offer two choices using real objects
- Simplify language: "juice or milk" (hold up each option)

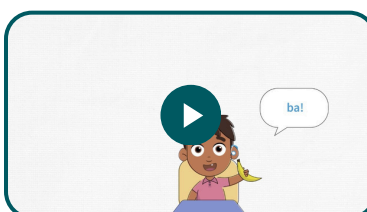
Why? This encourages communication and helps them learn new words.



Commenting

- Instead of asking questions, describe what's happening
 - "Up the hill"
 - "Crash"
 - "The horse is jumping"

Why? Commenting helps learn language without pressure to respond.



Listen and Respond

- When your child says a word or sound, respond positively
- Look at what they're playing with and add to their words
- If they say "ba", you can say "banana"

Why? This shows them you're interested and helps build confidence.



Speech and Language UK offer lots of help, support and advice for families:

6 -18 months - [Supporting Babies Early Communication Skills](#)

18 months - 5 years - [Supporting Children's Early Communication Skills](#)

Resources - [Top Ten Toys](#)

Top Tips for Communication 5-11 years

Between the ages of 5-11, most children have developed the simple communication skills to be able to ask for things they need, share their thoughts and ideas, tell stories and engage in conversation. During this age, children will be learning lots of new words to build their vocabulary and creating longer, more complex sentences and stories.

They will also be developing their understanding of the instructions and questions which other people use with them.



Top tips to introduce at home:

- **Repetition:** Repeat back what the child has said to you - repetition tells the child that you are listening and interested. Repetition also checks that you have understood the message the child would like to put across.
- **Modelling:** Repeat your child's sentences using the correct grammar, vocabulary or speech sounds. e.g. if they say "They was going shop" - respond with "They were going to the shop".
- **Expanding:** Use sentences which are slightly longer than your child's - add one or two words to the sentences your child uses when repeating them back.
- **Pausing:** Give your child time to think and formulate an answer.
- **Provide opportunities:** Make sure your child has the means, reasons and opportunity to communicate. Try to find time in the day for communication and engage them in interesting conversations.
- **New vocabulary:** If your child uses a simple word, model a more complex word back to them e.g. "he was happy", "yes he was ecstatic!". Explain new vocabulary to them.



Speech and Language UK offer lots of help, support and advice for children aged 5-11 years:

[Tips for Supporting Children's Communication Skills](#)

[Help Children Learn New Words](#)