

Children's Speech and Language Service

Sharing time when playing

When you are involved in your child's play, you are sharing quality time, while providing important learning vocabulary and language models

Get their attention

Get on the child's level and gain their attention.

Keep Sentences short

Use repetitive language, say things slowly, repeating helps them remember.

Follow their lead

Talk about what they are doing and playing with and showing an interest in as they are more likely to take it in.

Imitate their language

With younger children repeating what they say shows you are interested and will encourage them to talk more.

Build on what they say

Add one or two more words to the child's sentence, if they say 'look car' say back 'look red car'.

Praise them

If they get something wrong praise their efforts and offer a good model, if they say "*look a tar*" say "*yes , its a car*".

Give them time to respond

They may need extra time to put their thoughts together.

Express Yourself

Use gesture, facial expression and animate your voice to keep them interested and support their understanding.

Reduce your questions

Too many questions can reduce the flow of conversation and put them under pressure, so comment on what they are doing.