

5 Top tips to get your child talking:

Remember to make sure your child NEEDS to talk

Don't just assume what your child wants to eat or wants to play with. Get them to *ask* for what they want. They need to recognise the power of speech so that when they start talking, they can influence the world around them.

Take pictures of your child doing simple actions

For instance, capture them swimming, running, sitting, clapping etc. They will have great fun looking at themselves in the photos and telling you what they were doing.

Comment on what your child is doing and add a word

Try to narrate what your child is doing so that they have the opportunity to learn the language that accompanies their actions. For example, if they are playing with the cars, say "Look at the cars, the cars are going down the slope. The car is very fast" etc. When your child does say a word, repeat it back but add a further piece of information. For example, if your child says "car", you can say "yes big car".

Do not worry if the first words are not very clear but if you realise they always use the same word for an object then treat it as if it is a clear word

Repeat these words back to your child so they hear a good clear model of the word. For instance, if your child says "Joo" (for juice) you then say "Yes juice" as you hand it to them.

Start with teaching your child words that cause an immediate event

Two easy words to start with are "more" and "go". For example, if you are on the slide in the playground encourage your child to wait at the top of the slide and say "Ready, steady.....". They can only come down the slide when they say "Go". When they are on the swing hold the seat up in the air and say "Ready, steady"and only release the swing when they say "Go". If they are enjoying an activity encourage them to say "more" before continuing.

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