

# Supporting Communication and Language through reading stories and play

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“Communication is fundamental to children’s development; children need to be able to understand and be understood. Communication is the foundation of relationships and is essential for learning, play and social interaction.”

**-The Communication Trust**

# Why is interaction important?



# Why is interaction important?

- It build a child's vocabulary.
- It helps with social skills.
- It helps with turn taking.
- It helps with conversational skills.
- It helps play.
- It helps engage in class and understand verbal language.

Language allows children to make requests, explain their needs and understanding, and engage in conversation. Children get frustrated when they lack language to express themselves.



“It may seem an obvious thing to say, but one of the best things we can do with young children is to have **interesting and enjoyable conversations** with them. What this means is that as we go about our activities, whether at home or at nursery, playgroups, playgrounds, the childminding situation, or out and about, we should make a special effort to **answer children’s questions, point out things** that interest us”

Michael Rosen





# How we support language through play



Talking out loud and problem solving



Children working together



Singing rhymes and songs

Telling stories using toys



Singing



Role play linked to real life experiences



# How you can support your child at home through play



## Get your child's attention

- Face your child or sit down with them. Say their name before you start speaking. Talk about something you can both see in front of you. This helps them to learn what words mean.

## Have fun together

- Use actions, sing, make noises and funny faces. Don't be shy, being a bit silly helps get their attention and makes them laugh and can encourage language development. Play games with them and talk out loud about what you are doing or act out stories with the toys.

## Include them in day to day activities.

- While cooking give them empty pots and pans and model language like “stir” “mix” etc. Talk out loud about what you are doing. **Use your native language if English is not your mother tongue.**

## Comments not questions

- Asking lots of questions can feel like it's a test. Make it a conversation. When you talk to your child comment on what they are doing and what is happening instead.
- **Small world play** toys are a great way to encourage imaginative play and enhance language skills- great idea for a gift.

## **Give them time to think**

- Children need more time than adults to think about what they've heard, and to decide what to say back. Give them time to respond, and look at them while you wait.

## **Use simple language**

- Keep your sentences short. For example, "Food time now" or "Wow, you're building a tower".

## **Make it easier for them to listen**

- Turning the music, radio or TV off helps children focus on your words.

## **Build on what they say**

- Adding one or two words to what they say helps your child onto the next stage of talking. So, if your child says "bus" you say "Yes, big bus".

## **Speak in your home language**

- It's important for children to learn their first words and sentences in their home language. Your child will learn in English later, at nursery and school.

## **Show them the right way**

- Young children often make mistakes. Show them that you understand, rather than asking them to repeat words correctly. Say the word or sentence again correctly for your child. If they say "Look at the dad", you can say "Yes, it's a dog".





- “When **reading a book** with children, make a special effort to read slowly, with lots of fun and expression. Don’t worry about stopping if the children ask you questions. **Encourage them to join in with the sounds and rhythms of the story.**”

**Michael Rosen**

# How we support language through stories.

Independent reading



Role play with puppets



Special events linked to stories e.g. Teddy bear's picnic



Dressing up as characters

Book Corners



Listening to stories daily



Story role play



Puppet shows



Using story props

# Supporting your child's language through reading/story time

## Read lots of books with your child/ **BED TIME READING IS A MUST**

- Reading together helps your child develop a love of reading. It also helps them learn the skills to read books (such as turning the pages, reading the words, talking about the pictures). Reading aloud also nurtures your child's language and listening skills. **It is a lovely bonding time.**

## Name pictures in books

- Point out connections between books and your child's "real" life. For example, after you see the picture of a school bus in a story, you can watch one chug down the street later that afternoon. Help them make the connection.

## Talk about pictures in the book

- That bunny is getting tired. He is in his bed. He is going night-night. Night, night, Bunny. Talking about the pictures helps children develop a better understanding of what is happening in the story. Sometimes, instead of reading the actual words in the book, you can simply talk about the pictures on each page.

**Please use your mother tongue if you speak another language.**

## Repeat

- Choose books with stories that repeat words or phrases. Children learn new words and pronunciations through repetition. One good choice for this age group is *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* by Eric Carle, *Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson.

## Let your child help “read” the book

- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages. This helps her learn how a book works. See if they would like to read to you in whatever way they like. They may want to point to the pictures and have you say what they see or comment on pictures.

## Recognize that not all books are winners

- Young children have strong likes and dislikes. Even if this means re-reading the story over and over again. Forcing a child to hear a story does not build a love of literacy.

Children develop their own story telling skills and will often retell the story from memory.



# Book Trust gift

Lovely book to read with your child

Notes with some suggestions and questions

Bonding time

Modelled story time