

Talk Together



helps children
communicate

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Helping babies and young children
learn skills for talking



Learning to talk

Talking, understanding others and knowing what to say are really important skills. They help children make friends, learn and enjoy life to the full.

Going from babbling baby to talkative toddler seems like a miracle, but your child needs YOU to help make this happen. The information and tips in this leaflet will help. Talking in your home language is important to give your child the best start.

Babies

Babies communicate with us from birth. Their cries let us know if they are hungry or uncomfortable. They smile and look at us when we are talking. As we talk to them, they start to understand the simple words that we say.

Babies love to play with sounds by “babbling”. Their first words appear at 12 -18 months. They may not sound like adult words, but as you listen you will begin to know what they mean.

Toddlers

As toddlers grow, so do the number of words that they understand and use. Understanding words happens first, and using these words comes next.

After their first word, toddlers build up to about 100 words that they use one at a time. Next, they listen to you and learn how words link together. They begin to put two words together in small sentences. Later they will use longer sentences.

By three, children may already understand position words like **under** and **near** and questions like **where?** or **what?**

Young children

Four year olds start to use longer sentences. They will learn and use lots of new words and will talk about what they have done. They will start to ask lots of questions and enjoy listening to what others are saying.

They find some sounds difficult to say, but most adults will understand them. All of these skills help children get ready for school.

Find out more on
www.talkingpoint.org.uk



Handy Tips

Talking and playing with your child is good for them and makes life easier for you. These simple tips will help.

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.

Comments not questions

Asking lots of questions can feel like it's a test. Make it a conversation. Comment on what they are doing and what is happening.

