



SLT Top Tips for supporting Early Communication development

The best way for young children to develop their communication is through everyday activities and play with their family. The following strategies can help support early language and communication development:

- Get down to your child's level face to face with them when you are interacting with them.
- Observe how they are playing and join in by following their lead and interests.
- Wait for your child to start the interaction with you (e.g. by looking at you/showing you something/ saying something to you).
- Imitate how your child plays and the sounds they are making.
- Create opportunities for your child to take the lead/start the interaction by:
 - Offering choices of objects/activities (e.g. 'ball or bubbles?')
 - Giving them a little bit of something and then waiting for them to request more
 - Pausing during motivating familiar routines to give them the opportunity to continue it e.g. familiar songs
- Interpret their messages by making simple comments that are linked to what is happening (e.g. if your child points to a balloon and says 'ba' you could say 'balloon')

- Model words and short phrases about what is happening in the here and now (e.g. 'go car', 'big tower', 'teddy's sleeping').
- Expand on their language by adding on an extra word to what they say (e.g. if they say 'ball' you could say 'red ball').
- Try to model and expand using action words (e.g. eating, jumping), location words (e.g. in, on) and descriptive words (e.g. big, yellow, fast) as well as object words.
- Take turns to keep the interaction going.
- Talk to your Speech and Language Therapist for further advice about early communication development.

