

Top tips for successful communication

Gain your child's attention first!

Get down to your child's level and gain their attention before speaking or asking a question.

Use body language

Make use of facial expression, hand gestures and the tone of your voice to develop your child's interest.

Give your child time to respond

Your child needs time to put thoughts together. Look at your child, wait for a response.

Keep sentences simple

Talking very clearly, add one or two more words to the child's sentence. For instance, if your child says 'look, car' you could say 'look, big car.'

Imitate

When you imitate your child's sounds and words this shows that you are listening to them communicating.

Praise your child's efforts

If your child makes an error in a word or sentence simply say the correct version rather than pointing out the mistake.



Try not to ask too many questions

Instead of asking a question, make a comment, eg 'What's that (car)?' compared with 'Look - a big car!'

Keep dummies for nap time

Talking with a dummy in stops clear speech development.

Have fun with singing

Music and rhymes will help your child to listen.

Slow down

Say your words slowly and clearly.

What about TV and DVDs?

Share these by watching together, and comment on what is happening.



For further advice and information, please contact:
Speech and Language Therapy on 0151 514 2334

If you would like this information in another format, please contact the Your Experience Team on freephone 0800 694 5530. Alternatively you can email wcnt.yourexp@nhs.net

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July 2019 V2