

Top Ten Tips for Speech and Language

Stories, stories, stories!

Immerse children in high quality stories, with themes that they find engaging and most of all fun. Sharing stories has been linked to language development. An average 5 year old knows 10,000 words!



Time to think!

Children sometimes need a little time to process information when you have asked them a question. Allow ten seconds for thinking time! It can feel like a long time when you first start but it really does make a difference.



Think Questions!

When asking questions think about the following... What? (Naming questions) What? (Describing questions) Who? What? Where? How? (Retelling questions) Why? (Justifying questions) The easiest types of questions are the 'Whats?'



Expand language...

Think ShREC - Shared attention engage and play, Respond follow the child's lead, Expand the vocabulary that the child is using, Conversation back and forwards talking in play.



Get down...

Talking to children on their own level encourages eye contact and better interactions. Therefore developing spoken language and understanding.



Correct the language not the child

If a child uses the wrong language don't correct them 'no it's this...' instead model back the correct wording/structure.



Think five a day!!

It's not just fruit and veg! Children need to be exposed to at least five new words a day between one and half to six year olds. Break it down into two objects, two describing words and an action.



Rhymes and songs...repetition is the key

Children learn the pattern of speech through songs, rhymes and rhythms. Fully embrace this at every opportunity. The reason we as adults still remember nursery rhymes from being small is repetition.



Role Play

Children learn through play and being curious. Take as many opportunities as possible to role play real life for example making food with play dough in the home corner...think fun think imagination!



Signs

Use simple signs to accompany language for example Makaton. This not only helps to support language development but also helps pre-verbal children to communicate with others

