Chatter boxes

School-time/Home-time

You need: Yourself!

- Ask the child to go and get their coat, bag and anything else they need. Base the amount of instructions given at a time on their level of understanding - eg. tell them to get one thing at a time if they have one-key word understanding. This can be increased as the child's understanding develops.
- Ask the child one thing that day or one thing that they are looking forward to that day. Model full sentences and encourage the child to say a full sentence.

Snack time

You need: Drinks Snacks

- Put a choice of drinks and snacks in front of the child and ask him/her to show you where something is. Eg. "where's the milk?"
- Ask the child what he/she wants.
- At the start only expect one word answers, but then ask for a sentence.
- Get a child to be the waiter - the child has to go round and ask what other people want and then give it to them. Let everyone have a turn at being waiter.
- After the snack, ask the child if he/she liked it or not. Model sentences, eg. "the ___ was nice", "I liked the ___", "I didn't like the ___", "the ___ was horrible".

Story-time

You need: A story

- Read a story to the children and use visual aids that match the story.
- After the story, ask each person in the story. Get each person to add the next part in the sequence. Some children will need prompts with this - you can use the visual aids or pictures to help them remember.
- Take the theme of the story or an activity that happens in the story and act this out in the group. Eg. for 'The tiger who came to tea', have a tea party and take it in turns to pick something out to eat/drink. The children can say "I have ___" or "I like ___".

Filler time/Circle time

You need: Yourself!

- Have a 'question of the day'.
- Ask each person (in your family or class) the question of the day.
- Use open questions, eg. "what is your favourite toy?", "what did you do this morning?", "what do you like to eat?".
- Encourage the use of full sentences.
- For the children who are more confident with this, get them to ask the question of the day.