

little

Chatter

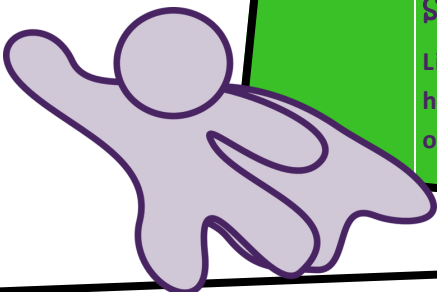
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Tips sheet

Let your child choose what to play and talk about.

Children will talk more about things they like.

Model correct words, sentences and sounds.



Opportunities

Don't just do everything for your child and give them things you know they want. Make them communicate with you! This may be with words or actions (like pointing).

Slow down

If you slow down your rate of speech, it will make it easier for your child to understand what you are saying and help them to slow down as well.

Talk at your child's level

Use language at the same level as your child and slightly above. Eg. If your child is using single words, use single words and 2-word phrases. Explain any new words using words they understand.

Pause

Pausing is really important to give your child time to understand and time to form their response. Wait for 10 seconds before saying something else!

Anywhere and everywhere

Build language into everything. Have a chat, talk about things at the shops, at the park, when you are travelling... the possibilities are endless!

Have protected talking time

The day is full of distractions so try to have a dedicated time for talking. Sit down with the family, turn TVs and phones off and just talk. Make sure everyone has an equal turn!

Show you are interested

Listen to what your child says, respond to what they have said and use your facial expressions and tone of voice to show that you are interested.

Have fun!