

# Helping your child learn to talk

1 ½ to 2 ½ years



This leaflet was developed by speech and language therapists to give you a few ideas on what you can do to help your child develop the skills to help him talk.\*

**Take your place face to face,  
I learn most when you are close**

Talking to your child throughout the day, will help her learn words. Point out things you see when you are out and about.

**Playing with parents is number one,  
get ready for learning and lots of fun!**

Playing games helps your child learn and develop new skills. Join in with what he is doing and have fun.

**Time with me is so much fun,  
I learn much more when we're one to one**

It is best to use short, simple sentences when talking to your child. If you ask a question, give her plenty of time to answer.

**Pick up a book,  
and have a look**

Your child likes to look at picture books, turn the pages and try to tell stories. Reading the same story many times, helps your child learn and use new words. Join your local library!

**Turn off the tablet, phone and TV,  
spend some time playing with me**

Your child is learning to listen, but background noise will make it harder. Children learn more when they are listening well.

**Add some words to what I say,  
I'll learn about sentences as we talk and play**

If your child says, "Ball Mummy!", you could add some words, eg "Yes it's a **big** ball"; "let's **throw** the ball".

\*We have interchanged the terms he and she and him and her throughout the leaflet.

**Sing a rhyme, anytime,  
start me learning for a lifetime**

As your child grows, they can join in with action rhymes and songs. He can have lots of fun singing and learning new words.

**Give me a choice,  
and hear my voice**

Help your child learn new words by giving her choices, eg “Do you want an **apple** or a **banana**?”

**Some words are hard for me to say,  
so let me hear them the right way**

If your child says a word that is not clear, just say the word back to him the right way. For example, if they say “tar” you say, “car”.

**When I talk and play,  
take my dummy away**

If your child still has a dummy at this stage you should try to stop it, as it may affect her speech.



For more advice,  
or if you are concerned about your child's talking,  
please talk to your health visitor.



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