

Talk with me - Communication tips for parents

3 to 4 years

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Read books with your child as often as you can. Talk about the pictures. Let them fill in parts of familiar stories. Read favourite books frequently.
- Make time to listen to your child when they are telling you something. Stop what you are doing and get down to their level. Have a special time to talk about their day.
- If your child's sentence is muddled don't correct them but repeat back to them how they could have said it.
- Join in pretend play with your child, following their lead. Let them be the 'mum' or 'teacher'.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes, pausing for them to fill in missing words.
- Introduce games with rules, such as 'snakes and ladders'.
- Your child is still learning new words and hearing them many times will help them learn them quicker.
- Don't correct words that are not said correctly, as with muddled sentences just repeat back the word said with the correct sounds.
- Restrict the amount of TV your child watches. Make sure that your child has plenty of opportunities to interact with you, the rest of the family and friends.
- Talk about and involve your child in everyday situations such as shopping, cooking, and cleaning. Your child will enjoy these more when they are given a role to play and are included in conversations as they happen.

DID YOU KNOW?

As your child develops speaking and listening skills they build the foundations for literacy and learning. Your child needs varied opportunities to interact with others and to use a wide variety of resources for expressing their understanding.

For more information and tips about communicating with your child visit:

Surrey Family Information Service
www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning
surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk
0300 200 1004

"what I like"

- Playing with others.

"what I can do"

- I am using longer sentences and beginning to link sentences by using 'and', 'but' and 'because'.
- I can talk about events in the past and present.
- I can retell stories.
- The number of words I know is continuing to grow.
- I may still have a problem with some sounds but most people understand me most of the time.
- I can understand questions beginning with 'why'.
- I may still make some mistakes with grammar, for example saying 'mouses' instead of 'mice'.
- I can carry out a sequence of actions or instructions.
- I can join in games with rules and understand taking turns and sharing.
- I can listen to longer stories.
- I am beginning to understand simple jokes.
- I am beginning to form friendships.

Listen to me,
I *talk* all
the
time



SURREY