

Top Talking Tips for Parents Primary

✓
Explore words - talk about new words as your child comes across one and link new words to words and ideas that they already know about.

✓
Give your child time – they might need more time than you think to answer questions or follow instructions, so give them an extra few seconds to do this.

✓
Be careful with how many questions you use – where possible, use comments (“you look like you’re getting organised there”) rather than questions (“what are you doing?”) as this provides a better language model for your child.

✓
Ask open ended questions (questions that need more than a yes/no answer) and encourage your child to tell you more about their answers to help them develop good communication skills.

✓
Think about matching the language you use to the language level of your child – try not to use vocabulary or sentence structures that are far more complex than the ones that they are using.

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✓
Encourage your child to ask questions or seek clarification if they haven't understood something. If they feel comfortable to do this at home, it's likely they'll also feel happy to do it at school, which will help their learning.

✓
Encourage your child's communication by showing rather than criticising– if they say something incorrectly, or express an idea that you don't agree with, try not to judge and show the right way instead of saying it's wrong.

✓
Give your child your full attention when they're talking – you'll have a more successful conversation if you show them that you're listening to them.

✓
Think of yourself as providing a model for your child's speech, language and communication development; children learn from what they see and hear.

✓
Think about your non-verbal communication; your facial expressions, body language and tone of voice are great ways to show your child that you're interested in what they say and to encourage them.