

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION.

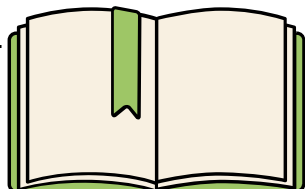
Here are some simple tips to help support your child's speech development:

Talk to your Child!

Even when children don't speak, they see and hear how language can be used, providing a language rich environment will help support them when they are ready to speak. Even if you speak to yourself out loud, your child will hear the language and it will support them in the long run.

Read to your baby!

It is never too early to start reading. Babies hear words before they are able to repeat them. This is great for developing vocabulary.



Sing to your Child

Evidence supports that singing to your child can support their communication development. Singing is a fun way to add more vocabulary in your child's life. Remember CD's, television and you tube do not replace your voice.



Repetition

When children are learning new words, repeating those words at every opportunity helps reinforce the word in your child's mind.



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Keep it Simple

When you are talking to your child think about how many words you are using. Short and simple sentences will always be easier for your child to digest and understand.

Use tablets, TVs and Mobile Phones Sparingly

Playing with them instead, using lots of language, helps them to understand conversation skills. Again, this helps children learn how to use language and speech to get their needs and wants met. Kids health recommend only 1 hour of screen time in under 3's.



Ditch the dummy!

Dummies can stop your child using the muscles in their mouth that they need to support their speech. Although great for comfort, if your child's not upset, ditch the dummy.

It can be frustrating, but your child is learning a new skill it will take time. It is proven children learn best when they are having fun. Every child loves praise, remember to praise your child for trying and they will be more eager to try again.

So be patient, offer praise and most importantly have fun!



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