

Communication and Language

Listening and Attention

You might notice that your child:

Enjoys listening to stories you tell them and talks about them later.

Joins in with their favourite bits in the story, for example,

“Who’s been sleeping in my bed?” when you’re reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Joins in with their favourite rhymes and stories and guesses what will happen next.

Stops what they are doing and listens when they hear you talk to them, or they hear the doorbell ring.

Understanding

You might notice that your child:

Understands questions like

“What do we need for a bedtime story?”

They may be able to say “book” or be able to point to one or even go and get one.

Can follow simple instructions like **“Put teddy under the blanket”** or **“Put the train on the track”**.

Understands what you are saying and can help when you ask them to bring you something.

Speech

Use longer sentences with words like

“because” and **“and”**. For example, **“I cried, I did, because I banged my foot and it hurt”**.

Ask them to tell you about something that’s happened. For example,

“Remember when we went to the park yesterday and came home?”.

Ask lots of questions and answer your questions too.

Talk about what you are doing now, and what might happen later or tomorrow.

Sometimes talk like a grown up and repeat words to make yourself clear. For example, **“I’m really, really hungry now”**.

Use lots of different words.

Top Tips

Learning to talk is a complicated skill for a child. These tips will help you, to help them:

- Say their name when you start talking to get their attention
- Help your child to learn new words by using all their senses to teach new words
- Build in lots of repetition
“Dog, yes a dog, woof woof dog”
- Build on what your child already knows and says
- Taking turns with babies, add words for toddlers and phrases for older children.
“Car, yes it’s a car, a blue car, a big blue car”.
- Talk about things that your child is interested in
- If your child makes a mistake, repeat the words and sentences clearly in the correct way
- Use comments and prompts instead of asking them too many questions. **“We’re going to walk to see Granny, we have to go up the road and through the park”**
- Play around with words and make up silly ones
- Give your child time to think about what you have said
- Chatting is important, the more you chat to your child the more time they get to practice

Find out more about your Child’s development

What to Expect When in the Early Years Foundation Stage, a Guide for Parents

If you have any concerns about your child’s development the first thing to do is talk to your child’s key person at their childminder / nursery / pre-school.

Find out more

- [Words for Life - ideas for Parents](#)
- [Start for Life - Learning to talk](#)
- [BBC Tiny Happy People](#)
- [Buckinghamshire Family Information Service](#)



Early Years
Service

*At the heart of everything we do is
a belief in the best start for children*