

Early Years Talk Homework

You can support your child's speech, language and communication development anytime and anywhere. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Shop talk

- If you're going shopping with your child, play a guessing game.
- Talk about things you're buying – can your child guess what it is? E.g. for banana you could say: "It's yellow and we eat it."
- Back at home, encourage your child to help with unpacking the bags and talk about what you're unpacking and where it belongs – give some silly instructions as well as sensible ones. E.g. put the banana in the oven...can your child say why this is a bit silly?!



Listen and Do

- Play this game to develop your child's listening and understanding.
- Give your child simple instructions and see how many things they can remember! It could range from only one thing, e.g. "Find a plate", to lots of things, like "Find a plate, a spoon, a cup and a fork."
- You can also help your child to develop their talking by seeing if they can give you instructions to follow.



Action charade

- Your child will be learning lots of new vocabulary, particularly action words.
- Start by acting out an action for your child to guess (running, jumping, eating, sleeping, licking, brushing, walking, hopping, skipping). Can they guess what you're doing?
- Then see if they can take a turn to do the action while you guess what the word is. If they find this difficult, you could give them a word to act out.
- You can make this game a bit more difficult by encouraging your child to put the action word into a sentence, e.g. instead of just saying 'brushing' they could say "You're brushing your teeth."



Story time talking

- Does your child have a favourite story that they know really well?
- See if they can tell you all about their favourite book or story. You can give them some clues to help if needed, like:
 - Who is in the story?
 - Where does it happen?
 - What happens?
 - How does it all end up?
- Or you could tell the story, but make some mistakes—can they spot where you go wrong...?!



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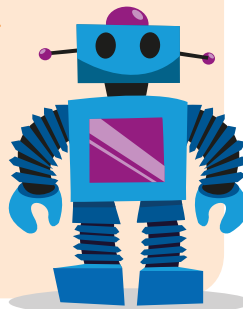
Stop and listen

- See how many different noises you and your child can hear by being silent for 1 or 2 minutes.
- Make things as quiet as possible at home and start a stopwatch or timer. Tell your child to listen out for as many sounds as they can.
- When the time's up, talk about everything that you heard – see how long you can make the list!
- You could also try having a quiet time to find a specific sound. E.g. hide a ticking clock or a noisy toy somewhere in the room – can your child tell you what the sound is and find where it's coming from?



Category conversations

- Use a toy or book that your child is interested in to start a conversation about categories. E.g. if there's an animal on the front cover of their favourite book, how many different animals can they think of?
- If their favourite toy is a toy kitchen, what other rooms in the house can they think of? Or how many different foods can they name?
- For some children, it can be good to start with sorting real objects to help them understand categories, e.g. they could sort their toys in to transport and animals, or blue things and things with wheels etc.



Hide and seek

- Your child should be developing their ability to understand and use positional words like in, on and under. Try a hide and seek game to help your child with this vocabulary.
- Ask your child to close their eyes while you 'hide' their toys in different parts of the room. Put some toys **on** objects in the room, some **under**, some **in** etc.
- Ask your child to open their eyes and find all the toys that you've hidden – can they tell you where the toys were hiding? If not, you can model it for them, e.g. "Your car was **under** the cushion!"
- You can also ask your child to have a go at hiding their toys in different places and getting them to give you instructions to help you find it.

Ready, Steady, Go...

- Does your child find it difficult to wait for their turn or have difficulty listening to you? Try ready steady go games to help them.
- You could have a car race where they have to wait for 'go' or build a tower and then wait for 'go' when they can knock it down!
- Or, outside, you could try encouraging them to listen and wait for 'go' before they can kick a football to score a goal!
- You can make this harder for your child by leaving a longer pause before saying 'go', to really help them to stop and listen to you.

