



## Using Words

Top tips to help your child put words together to talk



Let your child start to talk about something that they are interested in.



Give them time to think about what words to say.



Try to avoid telling your child to 'say this' as it may discourage them from wanting to talk.



Try to encourage your child to ask for things they want rather than simply handing it to them.



If they point to something they want, pretend you don't know and offer them a choice (Do you want *drink* or *biscuit*?)



Accept the sounds your child makes and say it back to them correctly (Child: 'Na-na' Adult: 'Yes, banana')



If your child says a word, say it back to them but add another word (Child: 'Bird' Adult: 'Bird flying')



Give your child ideas about what they could say by commenting on what you are doing during everyday routines. ("Put the washing in the machine" or "Turn the tap on", "Pour some bubble bath in")



Don't worry if they don't say full sentences, just repeat back what they said correctly.



Share a book together and let your child talk about the pictures rather than you reading the words to them.



Take photos of something you have done together and let your child tell you about it.