



Follow your child's lead.

Join in with what your child is doing and follow their interests. A child pays more attention to the things they are interested in and it is more likely that your child will listen and learn from the experience.

Don't let your child watch *lots* of TV or play too many computer games.

Your child needs to listen to language that is tuned into their needs - only *you* can do this!

Don't worry if the words aren't clear at first.

Say them again clearly so your child has the chance to listen to how they should sound. Don't ask them to repeat words or ask too many questions.

Use these tips and ideas as much as you can - they should help your child learn to talk.

Above all, remember that learning to talk should be fun - for everyone!

For more information, contact Speech and Language Therapy:  
Tel 01535 295652 or

<http://www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy/>

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Airedale **NHS**

NHS Foundation Trust

Speech and Language Therapy Service

Helping Your Child Learn to Talk



Before your child learns to talk, they must be able to understand, to make sense of things. Your child does this by linking words with experiences. These experiences will be of people, objects, events and actions.

There are lots of ways you can help your child learn to talk.

Turn the TV and radio off whilst you practise so your child can hear you and other people speaking.



### Looking and Listening

To learn to speak a child must learn to look and listen. Make sure your child is watching what you are doing and listening to you when you are talking.

Try to have a 'quiet time' when you can talk or look at books together.

### Listen to your child.

If you listen carefully you can learn what sounds or words your child is using and what they are using them for and build on these.

*E.g. If your child says "bi" every time you give them a biscuit, they are probably trying to say biscuit. You can pick up on this and model the word:*

*"Biscuit, you want a biscuit, here's a biscuit" etc.*

### Use words which go with what is happening.

Talk about the here and now - what is happening as it is happening. Tell your child the names of people, objects, events and actions, so they can build the link between words and everyday and familiar situations.

Don't try to get your child to repeat these words. He will do it when he is ready.

### Give your child opportunities and choices in conversation.

Take turns and give your child time to respond. Don't rush in - your child needs time and space to speak. Give choices: "Juice or milk?" "Do you want dolly or teddy?"



### Repeat yourself!

Your child needs to listen to you repeating words lots of times so that they can learn. Use the same words that go with daily routines: "shoes off, taps on, water in, wash face", etc.

Sing nursery rhymes and songs.

Read stories together.

