

Speech and Language Therapy Service

Helping Your Child With Understanding

Repeat the things you say over and over again. Your child likes to hear your voice and will not be bored.



Say things simply. Use short phrases;

'bath-time now'

'fetch your shoes'

'where's your coat?'

Learning to talk and communicate takes time. There are many skills children must learn before words come easily. One of the most important is children's ability to understand about the world around them and also the words we are saying to them.

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

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

Draft version Aug 2015 due for revision Aug 2017

Put simply, first comes experience, then understanding, and finally your child's own attempts to communicate. So when you are with your children and talking to them about what is happening, you are giving them the words they need to understand and later, to use.

Try these ideas to develop your child's understanding.

Spend lots of time playing and talking to your child.

Talk about what you and your child are doing as you are doing it.

There are lots of opportunities in the day, and because these are done every day, your child can hear the same words over and over again.



At Bath-time

'wash your hands', 'wash your face'

On the stairs

'up the stairs', 'down the stairs'

Getting dressed

'socks on', 'jumper on'



At bedtime

'jumper off', 'trousers off',
'in bed'

Shopping

Mealtimes

Cleaning

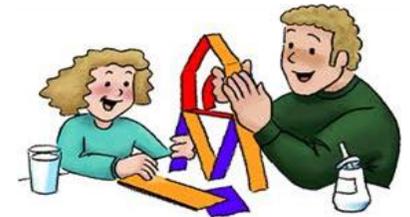
Making the bed

You can include teddy and dolly as well.

Turn the TV and radio off at regular times during the day so your child can hear you and other people speaking.



Watch your child and join in the things they are enjoying. Your child will be a lot more interested in what you have to say.



Show your child choices as you talk;

'Do you want milk or juice?'

't-shirt or trousers?'

'teddy or car?'

Whenever possible, get down to your child's level. Be close and face to face when you're talking.

