

10 Top Tips For Communication



Seaside SaLT
Speech and language therapy

1

Get your child's attention first

Crouch down or sit down so they can see you and say their name before speaking or asking them a question.

2

Give your child time to respond

Your Children often need more time to think what to say, so wait longer than you would with an adult.

3

Teach your child new words

Make learning new words fun. For example, if you're teaching the names of fruits, encourage the child to feel, smell and taste the different fruits as they learn the words.

4

Build on what your child says to you

Talking very clearly, add one or two more words to the child's sentence. For instance, if the child says 'look, car', you could say 'yes, it's a red car'.

5

Use lots of expressions

Speak in a fun voice and use gestures and facial expressions to back up your words. You'll be giving more clues about what your words mean.

6

Praise your child's efforts, even if the results aren't perfect:

If your child says a word or sentence wrong, simply say it back to them right. Don't point out the mistake.

7

Use simple, repetitive language

Keep sentences short. Describe what you are doing during everyday activities ('I'm washing a cup').

8

Imitate your child's language:

With very young children, simply imitate their words and sentences. Play games blowing raspberries or copying their funny faces. Copying is how children learn and they'll enjoy you copying them too.

9

Be careful with questions:

Try not to ask too many questions, instead talk about what your child is doing and give them time to respond e.g. 'You're splashing in the water....'

10

Make learning language fun!

Play around with words, sounds and sentences. Don't be afraid to talk in funny voices, make up silly words or have daft conversations.