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tips

...for encouraging interaction and communication! (For over 5's)

1

Get down to your child's level so you are both looking at and talking about the same things

2

Give choices - give your child a choice of two items to encourage communication e.g. do you want orange juice or apple juice?

3

Do things together - children learn more effectively when their day consists of child-led and adult-led activities

4

Model correct word/language - acknowledge what your child has said, add in missing words, use the correct pronunciation. This shows your child that you have listened to them and gives them the opportunity to hear the correct pronunciation of words with additional language to expand their vocabulary e.g. "I goed park yesterday and went in net", "yes you went to the park vesterdav and you were in aol"

5

Give choices, e.g. hold up objects and ask "do you want orange juice or apple juice?" Remember to follow the choice even if you know child does not like it! This helps children learn about cause and effect!

6

Match language to their level - talk about their interests and likes

7

Reduce questions - questions can be hard to understand. Try the five finger rule - for each question have four comments to back it up

8

Playing is fun! Try to spend at least 10 minutes a day when you do something together e.g. reading a book, talking about their day

9

Share books - talk about the story afterwards and ask them what they like reading e.g. fiction or non-fiction, and who their favourite character is and why?

10

Alter the environment - think about distractions e.g. TV, comfort, motivated, understanding, and interests