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tips

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

1

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

2

Model words correctly- listen to what your child says, repeat their utterance and add in any missing words e.g. 'goggie' - 'yes it's a dog!'

3

Playing is fun! Try to spend at least 10 minutes a day when you do something together e.g. playing with cars/bubbles, reading a book

4

Cut down on screen time - this includes the T.V, phone, and tablets. When you are watching T.V join in by commenting on what you can see and sing along to songs. Remember to turn the T.V off when you want to talk to your child about something. Screen time does NOT replace you talking with your child.

5

Nursery rhymes - sing simple, repetitive nursery rhymes and encourage your child to join in with the actions/singing. Some nursery rhymes to try are 'the wheels on the bus' and 'twinkle twinkle little star'

6

Comment on what your child is doing - use simple, short sentences e.g. if your child is playing with train say "train goes choo choo", "it's a red train", "the train is fast!"

7

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

8

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

9

Share books - talk about what you can see in the pictures, this will help your child's vocabulary development. It is not necessary to read all the words let your child be imaginative and make up a story based on the pictures

10

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!