

Communication and Language

Ready for School,
Ready for Life
Top Tips



Why do we communicate with children?

Children need to develop their communication and listening skills to encourage social interactions, play and learning.

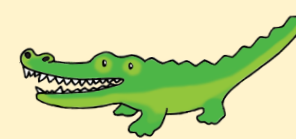
Adults need to be able to listen and respond to their children's communication attempts.

How can I help?

- When your child is trying to communicate with you, try to stop what you are doing, get down to their level and listen to what they are trying to say.
- To get your child's attention, use their name and wait for them to be looking at you before you speak to them.
- Reducing background noise such as televisions, allows your child to get used to hearing face to face conversations rather than those through a screen.
- If your child does not get the word right 1st time, don't worry. Repeat what they are trying to say back to them i.e. "yes, that is a purple car"

What activities can I do?

- Make a song bag – any objects can represent a song and your child can use the objects to choose their own song.



- Share stories with your child
- Play games, take turns and allow for natural communication. A game like 'pairs' will develop great communication. Try playing "What's the time Mr Wolf" as this encourages communication, listening and following instructions



- Use a running commentary when you are playing with them. This will help them to link words with objects.

Created in partnership by
Wokingham Children's Centres & Home-Start: Tools for Life