

How to help your child with speaking and listening ...



- Encourage your child to develop a positive attitude towards speaking and listening so he/she will continue to develop confidence and a willingness to share ideas, feelings and experiences.
- Respect your child's ideas, opinions and feelings. Encourage discussion which motivates your child to elaborate ideas, justify opinions, develop logical arguments and express feelings.
- Provide a good listening model by showing interest in, and responding to, your child's contributions. For example, use mealtimes for discussion and encourage all family members to participate.
- Encourage your child to listen and respond courteously and appropriately to others, even when opinions expressed may differ from his or her own.

Strategies to help your child with speaking and listening

- Set aside 10-15 minutes to discuss school learning, successes, concerns, interests and personal experiences e.g. 'Tell me something good about today...'
- Continue to play numberplate games in the car. Relate numbers to letters of the alphabet, e.g. 372=cgb=Can't Go Back
- Assist your child to express ideas in an orderly, fluent manner. For example, ask for an explanation of a game, a description of an item or a recount of an experience.
- Help your child to extend the range of words understood and used by introducing specialised vocabulary when talking about topics of mutual interest, e.g. current affairs or computer programs.
- Involve your child in conversations, plans and discussions.
- Involve your child in adult conversations when appropriate. These experiences will provide a range of language styles, ideas and vocabulary.

Speaking and listening for different purposes

- Provide opportunities for your child to speak and listen for a variety of purposes, e.g. telling jokes and riddles for enjoyment, explaining or giving directions, describing and elaborating on details, predicting and justifying, or identifying cause and effect.
- Include the family in games which provide enjoyment and teach social skills, e.g. Taking turns, explaining rules to another player, congratulating the winner.
- Play language games such as 'I Spy' and 'Hang Man'.
- Play commercial games that have a focus on word building and word knowledge.
- Encourage your child to retell stories. Involve the family in swapping stories, e.g. 'I'll tell you a story if you tell me one.'

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- Talk about school topics and assignments. Assist your child to locate and organise information from reference books, encyclopaedias etc. Talk about layout, contents, index, glossary etc.
- Discuss the effects of language on the behaviour of others, e.g. the effects of advertising or the methods used to persuade people to watch or listen to certain television or radio programs.