

Every child a Talker

12 Tips for Parents (12 months of ideas.....)

1. Get your child's attention first- Get down to your child's level and engage them before speaking or asking questions.
2. Describe your everyday activities to help your child join in and learn new words.
3. Keep sentences short.
4. Use a full range of expression. Speak in a lively animated voice and use gestures and facial expression to help your child understand.
5. Try not to ask too many questions.
6. Imitate your child's language. This will show you are listening and care what they say.
7. Give your child time to respond. Count 5 before you expect an answer.
8. Build on what your child says e.g. If your child says "Daddy" you could say "Daddy gone" or "Daddy car".
9. Praise the child for what they say and model correct language rather than pointing out mistakes e.g. If you child says "I runned up the hill" you could say "wow! You ran up the hill"
10. Increase vocabulary by giving choices, e.g. "Do you want some juice or milk?"
11. Try and have special time with your child each day to play with toys and picture books. Talk to your child when you are playing together.
12. Limit TV time. Try to watch TV together so you can talk about what happens.