



# Southfields Primary School Talking Time

'Communication is the key to getting  
a good start in life'



Southfields Primary School

Practical ideas to help your child  
to speak and listen well

*“Speech, language and communication skills are fundamental to the development of learning and social and emotional well-being. They are essential to support the development of skills for life and work”*

*As a parent or carer, you have a special part to play*



*Children need lots of opportunities to talk with others as they develop and practice their speaking and listening skills. This helps to build their confidence and improves their ability to communicate with other people. This is a really*

*Chatting and singing together develops*

**SO REMEMBER TO...**

- **Expand language by scaffolding and adding words:**

*Child: 'Milk'    Adult: 'The milk is all gone'*

*Child: 'I draw a butterfly'    Adult: 'Yes*

*you drew a red butterfly. It's beautiful*

- **Model by repeating the child's sentence in a more 'mature' form:**

*Child: 'Him's eat biscuit'    Adult: 'Yes he is eating a biscuit'*

- **Keep your language levels simple.**
- **Use daily routines and activities for repetition of basic vocabulary/ actions.**
- **Join in a child's play or mirror their actions.**
- **Wait and allow a child time to start an interaction - children need thinking time!**
- **Give choices to increase vocabulary e.g. 'would you like orange or apple?'**

*'In order to make a good start in reading and writing children need an*

*Play listening games... like **Simon Says**, or make up your own simple listening games. For example, you can say, "I'm going to give you a mission. I want you to bring me the following items: A hairbrush from*



*Use puppets or a recording to give instructions. Your child may choose to ignore you when you ask her to tidy her room, but she may do it happily if one of her favourite puppets asks her to. Or make clean up a game by recording your instructions: "Pick up your dolls and put them on the shelf. Then put your*

## **DO AND SHOW**

*Your child learns from you and wants to copy what you do. Join in with their activities, share books and enjoy*



*Everyday activities such as preparing meals, tidying up, putting shopping away and getting ready to go out, offer you chances to talk to your child,*

*When reading a book to your child, stop before turning the page and say, "What do you think will happen next?" Ask her to explain her answer to see how well she's listened to what you've read so far.*

*Revisit an old favourite. Bring out one of your child's most dog-eared, battered books and read it aloud again, only this time pause at key points to let her fill in the words that come next.*

*Or read the story and purposely change parts of it to see how well your child is paying attention. If she hears something that's not quite right,*



*Ask your child to predict how a story will end. Read a book aloud to your child and stop just before the last page. Ask her to guess how the story will turn out, based on*

*Talk to your child all the time. Tell her about an interesting story you read in the newspaper. Describe a conversation you had at work with a*

## MAKE OPPORTUNITIES

Every day experiences can make for great adventures. A trip to the shops or a bus journey can be fantastic opportunities for looking, listening and talking. When you can, try something new or different for example taking

Get in the habit of talking about your everyday activities. If you're in the kitchen together while you're making dinner, for example, you can say, "I need to measure out two cups of water and then add one cup of rice..." It may not seem as if your



Make up silly rhymes. The more silly, the better. "The fat cat ate the hat. Then the rat ate the fat cat who ate the hat..." This



Play "story chain." Everyone in the family will enjoy this. Have one person begin a story ("Once upon a time, there was a little boy who lived in a tree house in the woods"), and then have another add the next sentence, and so on. This game improves listening skills because each person

NOTICING SIGNS AND WORDS OUT IN  
THE STREET HELPS CHILDREN  
UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AROUND  
THEM



*Respond positively to curiosity.*

*Anything that builds your child's sense of the world around them is worth doing, so answer your child's 'why' questions in as much detail as you can.*

*"Read" a song together. Buy a music recording and a matching book of lyrics, so you can follow the words along with the music. Even beginning.*  
*Cook together. Find a recipe, read the directions out loud, and let your child do the*



*Watch a child's video or television show together.*

*Lots of television shows are designed to share with your children. Ask your child*