

## Top tips to help support your child's communication and language development

- An extensive vocabulary is the key. The more words your child knows and uses at a young age the better they will read and write in School.
- Help your child learn new words and then build in lots of repetition and practice to ensure they use the new words.
- Talk about what your child is interested in. This will mean they are much more motivated to speak.
- Check out understanding. Encourage your child to ask if they have not understood. Check by asking them if they know what to do. Can they explain the steps they need to take?
- Look together at the photos you've saved or posted – can your child remember the story behind the photo? See if you can find a similar photo of when you were young. Talk about the differences and similarities – this exercise is great for sharing stories, which are so vital for communication development.
- Remember, it's OK to turn technology off! Sometimes the best way to encourage children is to model it as a parent. Communication technology is great, but face-to-face conversations can be even more rewarding.
- If you let your child watch TV, watch it with them (as much as possible). It's an excellent way to spark off conversations and learn new words.
- It's really important to always remember that children need quiet time where you turn off background noise and have time just to play. This is really important for listening and language development.
- Sing Nursery Rhymes with your child. If your child can sing 8 rhymes from memory by the time they start school they will have a better reading age by the time they are 8 years old.

### Read with your child:

Each time you read to your child, you are helping her brain to develop. So read to your child every day. Choose books that you think your child will enjoy and will be fun for you to read.

Since younger children have short attention spans, try reading for a few minutes at a time at first. Then build up the time you read together. Your child will soon see reading time as fun time!

### Here are some things you can try:

- Read the same story again and again. The repetition will help them learn language.
- Choose books with rhymes or songs. Clap along to the rhythm and help your child clap along. As your child develops, ask her to fill in words. ("Twinkle twinkle little star. How I wonder what you \_\_\_\_.")
- Point to pictures and talk about them. ("Look at the silly monkey!") You can also ask your child to point to certain pictures. ("Where's the cat?")
- Talk about events in your child's life that relate to the story. ("That bear has blue pajamas just like you do!")

- Ask your child questions about the story. ("Is that bunny hiding?")

## English as an Additional Language

It is very important that your child gets a good education – in their first language and in their second language. If you talk to your child at home in your first language, continue to do so. It is very important that you can communicate with your child well. Use the language that you feel most comfortable with – if you try to talk to your child in a language you don't speak very well yourself then they won't learn to communicate very well either!