

# How to provide opportunities for children to talk, listen and learn new words - TO COMMUNICATE!

**It only takes a few minutes to make a BIG difference!**

Young children don't learn language through formal teaching but in a playful sort of way and to communicate their needs. These are some of the ways you can develop and enrich children's language:

- When you're doing things together, describe your actions – *“We're rolling the dough with the rolling pin to make it nice and flat. Then we'll cut it into shapes and put it in the oven”*
- Describe your child's actions – *“I see you're digging a deep hole with that little spade ..”*
- Expand sentences – *“Yes that is the cow's baby, it's a calf and look, it's drinking milk from its ma.”*
- Tell stories together – *“When you were a tiny baby ...”* or encourage and help children to tell their own stories: *“Tell me what you did at Granny's house (or at school) ... oh and then; and who was there?; how did you feel?; what happened?”*
- Ask questions that have more than one or two word answers – *“What happened today to make you feel sad?”* Or *“I wonder what's going to happen in the story, what do you think?”*
- Help children to plan and sequence activities: For example, *“Let's make a sandwich together. What must we do first? And then what do we do?”* Use different activities around the house to encourage clear planning, logical sequencing and problem solving.

You can make a game of it and ask silly questions:

*“Do you put your shoes on before your socks?”*

- Help children describe what they see, feel, taste or hear, for example – *“yes the sky is blue today, its light blue; Yes the kitty has lovely soft, smooth fur; Mmm the lemon is sour; Yes that music outside is very loud.”*
- Help children to know the names of different objects and to learn new words. Encourage them to use the new words they have learnt.
- Listen carefully when your child asks questions.



**Yes! A few minutes a day can make a BIG difference!**