Talking with your baby

Learning to talk is one of the most important and complex skills your child will accomplish. It seems to happen naturally, but in fact you have a very important role to play. The more you talk to your baby, the more you enable her to become a good talker and a confident, happy child.

• Talk about what you’re doing throughout the day – when you’re bathing or feeding your baby or changing her nappy.
• Talk about the things you see on the way to the shops, or at the supermarket. Try to talk about the things your child shows an interest in.
• Talk in the language that you know best - it doesn’t have to be English.
• Look at your baby as you talk and give him time to respond to your chatter.
• Answer your baby’s noises and babbles.
• Cuddle up together and read a favourite book or talk about the pictures.
• Have fun with nursery rhymes or any song, especially those with actions.
• Listen carefully and give your toddler time to finish talking.
• If your toddler says something incorrectly, say it back the right way, e.g. “Goggy bited it.” “Yes, the dog bit it, didn’t he.”
• Try to watch TV together so you can talk about what happens.

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Quick tips may be photocopied. For more information visit www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk

Talk To Your Baby is an initiative of the National Literacy Trust.