

Ready to learn every day!
Speaking and listening: a short guide for parents

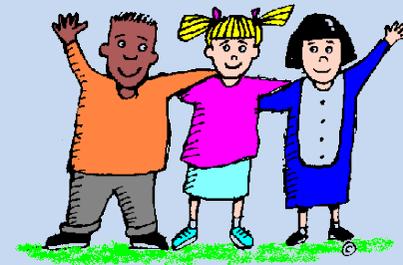
(Thanks to NAHT, Family action)

(advice based on the latest research about what helps children to speak and listen well)

Your child: Speaking and listening

It is important to help your child with speaking and listening because:

- Your child's ability to speak and listen well will be a good foundation for their future learning
- If they are good speakers and listeners they will do better at reading and writing



- If they can communicate well with others, it will help them to make friends more easily
- They will become more independent and be able to learn about the world
- Your child will learn to express their feelings and not become frustrated so easily

At school younger children will learn to:

- Think about what they say and choose the right words
- Speak fluently and confidently



- Listen to instructions from the teacher
- Listen to their classmates before speaking and take turns

As they get older they will:

- Join in group discussions and make useful points



- Present to an audience, expressing their opinions clearly
- Learn how language varies in different situations



Your child: What can you do to help

Put listening to your child first:

- Show your child how to be a good listener by listening to them and others
- Be patient: don't interrupt or finish their sentences for them
- Give your child your attention: don't check your mobile phone at the same time as they are talking to you



- Show you are listening: ask questions about what they are saying, ask their opinions
- Listen to your child reading aloud regularly

Be a clear speaker:

- Speak confidently, using the right words and set an example by talking in full sentences
- If English is not your first language, the most important thing is that you speak your own language confidently and well



- Use clear, simple directions for tasks and behaviours
- When your child follows directions, show you notice: praise them for listening to you

Get involved every day:

- Discuss their day with them when you see them after school
- Try to have a family meal together as often as possible



- Encourage your child to talk about their views and interests with others
- Ask them about their homework and get involved with it
- Switch off televisions and laptops well before bedtime: chat or read a bedtime story together instead

Have fun speaking and listening together

- Play family games together like I spy, Charades, Chinese whispers and Articulate
- Nursery rhymes, songs, jokes and puppets are an important way of helping younger children learn language
- Re-tell familiar stories and have fun making up your own



- With older children, read books and poetry aloud together
- Discuss and debate issues in the news

And look at these websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/songs

www.ican.org.uk

www.literacytrust.org.uk

www.britishcouncil.org

www.talkingpoint.org.uk