Everyday activities are great times to talk. Even babies learn from hearing your voice.



Going to the Park

When you go to the park with your child, you can talk about everything you see and do—like climbing, swinging, or spotting birds. "It's a blackbird. It has shiny black feathers and a yellow beak."

Chat as you play.



Let them choose:

"Do you want the swing or the slide?". Make eye contact with your child to get their attention and show them you are listening.

• Add to what they say:

Child: "Stone."

You: "Yes, a smooth, grey stone!"

• Use action and direction words:

"Go up the steps, then down the slide!"

















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Bathtime

Bathtime is a great time to talk and learn! While your child is splashing and playing, you can name parts of the body, talk about the movement of the water, and describe what's happening.

Saying things like "Let's wash your toes" or "Let's pour the water. Splash, splash!" helps your child hear and learn new words. Bathtime is also a great time to learn action words like 'splash' and 'pour'



- Describe what's happening:
 "Pop the bubbles!", "Lots of bubbles!".
- As you dry your child say:
 'Let's dry your tummy,' 'Now your feet.' This helps them learn new words.
- **Sing a song together!**Try "Five Little Ducks" it's fun and helps your child learn words and numbers. You could also make up your own song by changing the words to a familiar rhyme.

















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Bedtime

As you get your child ready for sleep, you can talk about the day, name bedtime items like "pyjamas" or "teddy," and share a story together.

Turn off the TV so it's quiet and children can listen. Children find it easier to talk and listen if you switch off the TV



Try this:

- Encourage your child to choose a book
 'which book would you like to look at tonight?'.
 Talk about the pictures and what they can see "Where is the ball? Is it under the rug?"
- Ask your child about their day.

 Try a question like: "Did you like going to the park?",

 "What did we see on the way?" Give your child time
 to think and answer. This helps them learn to talk and
 remember what they've done.
- A gentle song helps your child relax and feel safe.
 It also helps them listen, learn new words, and enjoy quiet time with you















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Shopping

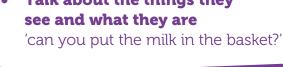
Shopping trips are full of talking and learning! Before you go shopping, make a list with your child.

As you walk around the shop, you can name the things you see, talk about what you're buying, and ask your child to help.

Saying things like "Let's find the bananas" or "Can you put the milk in the basket?" helps your child learn everyday words in simple sentences.



- Give your child a choice 'Shall we buy a pear or an apple today?'
- When your child says a word or phrase, repeat it back and add another word 'banana', 'yes it's a yellow banana', this helps them to learn to describe things.
- Talk about the things they see and what they are



















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Mealtimes

Mealtimes are a great chance to talk and learn together. Sitting down to eat gives you time to chat with your child about their food and their day.

You can name foods, describe tastes and textures, and ask simple questions like "Do you like the carrots?" or "What colour is your cup?"



Try this:

- Try and let your child choose between more than one food 'do you want butter or jam?' and wait for their response.
- Comment using action words and repeat these to help your child to understand them 'mix it up', 'crack the egg'.
- **Eat together** when you can and talk about the food 'I like this banana, it's squishy'.













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Getting dressed

Getting dressed is a great time to talk and learn! As your child gets ready, you can name clothes, talk about colours, and describe what you're doing—like "Let's put on your red socks" or "Zip up your coat." These simple conversations help young children learn new words, follow instructions, and understand routines.



Try this:

- Take a moment to talk with your child about the clothes they're wearing—name each item and chat about which part of the body it goes on. Give them the chance to choose what they'd like to wear, whether it's clothes or shoes, and encourage them to describe their choices. 'You've chosen the long, blue socks to put on your feet'
- If your child says, "these shoes", you can expand on their words by saying, "you want the blue shoes". This is a great opportunity to introduce new vocabulary and help your child hear more words
- Talk your child through the steps one at a time.
 'You are putting your boot on your foot.
 Push your foot in'















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Helping at home

Helping at home is a great way to build language and confidence. Routine tasks like putting some laundry on are a great time to chat to your child and have some fun.

When your child helps with simple jobs like tidying toys or sorting laundry, you can talk about what you're doing together. Say things like "Let's fold the towels" or "Can you put the books on the shelf?"



Try this:

- When doing the laundry, ask them to find certain items of clothing, like "mummy's dress" or "the red jumper"
- Ask your child to describe what they are doing and talk through what you are doing as well. You could say "Mummy is washing a plate" and encourage your child to repeat the action.
- Give simple instructions. "Brush the floor". Talk through what you're doing and why you are doing it. This way they'll hear words and phrases that describe what you're doing together.















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Going on a journey

Journeys are full of exciting talking opportunities for your child!

Before you go out, talk to your child about your plans for the day. Ask them what they want to do, where they want to go, who they might see.

Whether you're walking to nursery, taking a ride on the bus, or going in the car, you can talk about what you see, hear, and do along the way.



Try this:

- Turn a walk with your child into a learning and talking experience for your child by playing a classic game of I spy. 'I spy with my little eye, something that is blue'
- Talk about what you see and, together, count objects you can see outside the window—like red cars, birds, or people wearing hats. You can turn it into a fun game by seeing which item appears the most!
- A bus journey is a great opportunity to sing rhymes together, especially The Wheels on the Bus













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Cooking together

When you're cooking with your child, you can name ingredients, measure ingredients, and talk about what's happening—like "Let's stir the sauce" or "The cake is rising in the oven." These hands-on moments help children aged 0–5 learn new words, follow instructions, and understand sequences. It's a great mix of talking, learning, and tasty fun!



Try this:

- Encourage them to make choices by asking things like, 'Do you want the green pepper or the red pepper?'
- See if they can find the ingredients you ask for around the kitchen. "Can you find the eggs?"
- **Sing a song while you are cooking.** Make up a silly little rhyme the next time you're doing a fun activity like baking?















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Playing with a ball

Playing with a ball with a young child is a simple, free, and fun activity—and it's packed with opportunities for learning including developing listening skills

Ball games are great for teaching children to take turns and follow simple instructions like 'pass the ball to me'.



Try this:

- Encourage your child to use action words like 'roll', 'throw', 'fast' and 'slow'.
- **Help your child's listening skills** by playing red light green light. Explain to your child that red means stop, they must stop. Amber means walk slowly, and green means run fast. Following your instructions challenges their listening and memory skills.
- As you pass the ball back and forth, take it in turns to say something – just like you would in a conversation. "Yellow", "Green", "Blue".













