

# Talk About...

## show them the next step



Becoming a confident and chatty communicator is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn, but it doesn't happen by accident. Our top tips give you ideas about how to support your child as they learn about language.

Find out more at:

[www.talkaboutnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.talkaboutnorfolk.co.uk)

If you would like to receive these tips by email, please drop us a line at [talkabout@nchc.nhs.uk](mailto:talkabout@nchc.nhs.uk)

Whatever stage your child is at with their talking, there's still a long way to go before they can use language like adults do. We can show them what the next step on the ladder looks like through the words that we use with them.



Showing your child the next step as they learn language is simple. Try and notice what your child is doing with their language – are they using just single words, or are they putting several together in a small sentence? You can show them the next step by copying what they have said, but adding a little more information in. It will depend what stage your child is at, but it can look like this...

### **If your child is not yet using words...**

At this stage you will need to take a guess at what your child wants, based on what they are telling you with their face, body movements and the sounds they make. When you roll a ball to each other and you can leave a pause at the end, she might make a sound or pull your hands to start again, you can say "again!" or "more" and then roll the ball again. It's good at this stage to use lots of single words to talk about what you are doing and what you are seeing: ball, bounce, roll, up, down, more.

### **If your child is using single words...**

He might say "ball", or "again" when you are playing together. You can copy what he has said and add a bit more, "roll the ball", "ball gone", "roll it again".

### **If your child is joining 2 words together...**

She might say "me ball", "more ball", "ball gone". You can copy what she has said and add a bit more, "it's Lilly's ball", "here comes the ball", "ready, steady...", "where's the ball gone?".

### **If your child is using sentences...**

He might tell you more about the ball "it's my turn now", "I want the green ball". You can continue to add a bit more information even at this stage. You could say "the green ball's got orange spots", "after your turn it's Oliver's turn", "the ball is bouncing really high".



**Competition time!** For a chance to win a book, as well as 5 books for your child's nursery, visit our website and fill in the online entry form, [www.talkaboutnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.talkaboutnorfolk.co.uk)