

Talk About...

being careful with questions



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

If you would like to receive these tips by email, please drop us a line at talkabout@nchc.nhs.uk

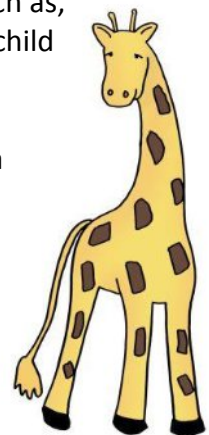
When children are still learning new words, the most helpful thing we can do is to show them what these words are as we play and do different things throughout the day. It is tempting to ask children questions to find out what they know, but if we don't tell them what these words are, they won't know them.

You might find it useful to think about our 'rule of thumb' as you focus on using more comments than questions – for every question you ask, try and follow it up with four comments before asking your next question.



Comment about things in everyday life that interest your child. Instead of asking, "What are you making?" as your child squeezes some play dough, comment on what he's doing, such as, "Oh, you're squeezing the play dough". Instead of asking "What's that?" while your child looks at a picture of a giraffe in a book, you could comment "That's a tall giraffe!".

If a question comes into your head, like "what colour is the giraffe?", change it into a comment, "the giraffe is yellow and brown". Try and match what you say to your child's language stage. If they are only using a few words, comment with just a few words, if they are saying lots of words together, you can say a longer comment, like "The giraffe is dancing beautifully!"



When your child is building with blocks try saying...

"1 brick, 2 bricks, 3 bricks... it's getting taller... wobble wobble... I wonder how tall it's going to get... they're all red... next a green one... how many are there now?... it looks like it's going to fall... oh no! All fall down."

Competition time! For a chance to win a book for you and your child, as well as 5 books for your child's nursery, visit the parent section of our website and fill in the online entry form, www.talkaboutnorfolk.co.uk (one entry per child only).