

Top Ten Tips to Develop Early Communication Skills



Remember		ldeas <mark>"@</mark>
Т	ake turns	Copy the child's babble/vocalisations. Take turns with toys and games (e.g. rolling a ball to and fro).
0	ffer choices	Offer specific choices, such as "Would you like a puzzle or a book?" rather than asking, "What do you want?"
p	ay attention to the non-verbal	Accept gesture, pointing and facial expressions as a response. Interpret what they've tried to tell you, even if it's not clear.
Т	hink about language levels	Use simple or reduced language – this is ok for younger children. Build on the number of words they are using. If the child says "car" you can say "yes big car".
е	nvironment What is your position?	Switch the telly off! Be at their level (e.g. sit with them on the floor). Everyday objects are as good as expensive toys.
n	ow follow your child's lead	Go with the child's interest and choice of toys. Children like repetition, so use the same book or toy.
Т	hink about different words	Remember to label action words (e.g. jumping) as well as objects (e.g. teddy). Talk to your child about what you are doing as you do it (e.g. shopping and washing).
i	ntroduce songs and rhymes	Leave out the last part of a Nursery Rhyme – can the child add the last part? Children love fun action games like peek a boo or round the garden.
р	romote opportunities	Don't anticipate what the child wants – look expectantly and wait. Use more comments than questions.
S	tart having fun	Short bursts See what works Give lots of praise! Well done!
	© <mark>∲</mark> ∕	Looking for more information, we suggest: www.talkingpoint.org or www.ican.org.uk





Early Verbal Communication

Cries for different wants and needs Babbles and uses inflected (goes up and down) vocal play Imitates your noises and uses jargon (strings of sounds that serve to mimic real speech). Starts to produce some single words (around 1-10 in total). Uses mostly gesture with some vocalisations to accompany this Early words may include "mamma", "dada" or "doggie" All common vowel sounds 3 years [p] gan, sheep [b] ball, crab [t] teddy, letter [d] dog, bed [m] mouse, mummy [n] nose, banana [w] wellies	Coos or g	urgles.	0 – 6 Months
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Based on research by Ann Locke

These are the ages when 90% of children will use these sounds.