

# Talk with me - Communication tips for parents

## 4 years plus

### COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Continue to spend time looking at and reading books together. Talk about new words and their meanings.
- Make sure you give your child time to talk, your child is trying to express more complex ideas and may need more time to respond to questions while they are getting their words sorted out before they speak.
- Repeat back to your child what they said but reword it into a correct sentence rather than correcting them.
- Play games with sounds and rhymes. This will help with developing reading and writing skills.
- Play board games to develop listening, turn taking and following rules. These can also be good for showing examples of good social language.
- Make sure you set a good example of social language by using words such as 'please' and 'hello' at appropriate times so that your child can use these words and recognise when they are needed.
- Involve your child in everyday routines.
- Encourage imaginative play and join in pretend games with your child.
- Make sure you know what your child is learning at nursery or school and reinforce with games, books and activities at home. This will help them learn new words more easily and allow them to practice and use language associated with their learning more often.
- Be aware of when you are using expressions such as 'pull your socks up', make sure you explain the meaning. This can be fun for children to learn at this age.

### DID YOU KNOW?

As your child develops speaking and listening skills they build the foundations for literacy and learning. Your child needs varied opportunities to interact with others and to use a wide variety of resources for expressing their understanding.

For more information and tips about communicating with your child visit:

**Surrey Family Information Service**  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning)  
[surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk)  
0300 200 1004

### "what I like"

- Telling jokes with my friends, although they may not always be funny.

### "what I can do"

- I can listen to what you are saying whilst carrying on with what I am doing.
- My sentences are much more complex and adult like.
- I can have more detailed conversations with you, including talking about the past, present and future.
- I can understand more complex instructions including using sequences like first and last.
- I can plan games with my friends.
- I can listen to longer stories.
- I can play games with rules and take my turn with a larger group of people.
- I like to play imaginary games with my toys and with my friends.
- I'm beginning to understand when you use expressions such as 'shake a leg' but you will need to explain these when you first use them.



I'm a  
*fantastic*  
talker



SURREY