

PARENT TALK MOVES to encourage family talk and dialogue

TO GET CHILDREN INTERESTED IN TALKING

Ask open, thought-provoking or funny questions e.g. Would you rather eat cold gravy or fried ants? What would you do if you had a magic wand? Should people have to pay for food?

HELP CHILDREN TO SHARE THEIR THINKING

Go on...

That's interesting...

Tell me more.

What are you thinking?

I'd love to hear your idea.

Explain a bit more.

Can you think of an example?

Let me check – are you saying...?

DEVELOP LISTENING & RESPONDING

Ooh, that's interesting, did you hear what Isha just said?

Do you agree/disagree? Why?

What do you think about what Davey said?

Can you add a bit more to your Mum's idea?

Who can explain what Dad means when he says that?

Why do you think your brother said that?

Touch your nose if you can repeat what your sister just said. (Listening game)

ENCOURAGE DEEPER THINKING

How do you know?

Why do you think that?

What's your evidence?

Prove it! Convince me.

Is that always true?

Does it always work that way?

How does that fit with what we did yesterday?

What if ...?

SPECIFIC PRAISE

I love the way you're thinking it through.

Great – you listened really well, Ana.

Thanks for disagreeing calmly, Ben.

I like the way you've asked a question. That's really making me think!

Good tidying!

(instead of Well done, Good girl, etc.)

Talking develops your child's confidence, ideas, reasoning, and ability to work with others. It can also contribute to improved reading and writing.

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN NOT YET TALKING MUCH

To develop language, comment lots on play or actions e.g.

You're rolling the ball. Rolling the red ball. You've picked up the ball! Oops! You dropped the ball!

Just put into words what they're doing. Don't ask questions or expect them to respond. Try to do at least 20 minutes a day 'commenting'.

TOP TIPS

► Make sure you **genuinely** listen to your child's thoughts and ideas. Don't guess what they're going to say or finish their sentences!

► Set aside some daily time for talking e.g. teatime.

► Don't push if they aren't in the mood for talking. Wait for something that sparks their interest. Then listen.