

National Year of Communication!

2011 is the National Year of Communication and aims to make communication for all children and young people a priority in homes and schools across the country.



Top tips for helping your child's talking and listening at home

- **Make time to listen to your child talking** – as you meet them from their childcare setting or school, as you walk, or travel home by car, in the supermarket as you shop, at meal times, bath times, bedtimes – anytime!
- **Switch off the TV, radio and mobile phones** – and really listen!
- **Show your child that you are interested in what they are talking about** – look at your child, smile, nod your head, ask a question or make a response to show that you really have been listening.
- **Make a collection of different toy creatures** e.g. a duck, a snake, an alien- say the sound it might make as you play together e.g. quack-quack, ssssssss, yuk-yuk- encourage your child to copy you.
- **Listen at home** – switch off the TV and listen to the sounds both inside and outside home – can your child tell you what they heard and in the order in which they heard it?
- **Play a tune** – and follow me! Make or buy some simple shakers, drums and beaters – play a simple tune and ask your child to copy. Have fun!
- **Use puppets** and toys to make up stories or re-tell known ones. Record your child telling the story and play it back to them.

Reading with your child

Reading is a wonderful way of spending special time with a baby, toddler or child. It allows you both to share and enjoy the experience of exploring the pages of a book.

Babies and small children love stories with rhyme and rhythm!



Toy Bus

Toys that can help with speech and language can be borrowed from the Toy Bus. Ask your children's centre when the bus is in the area or look online at www.yorkchildrenscentres.org.uk/toybus.

Books can also be borrowed from most children's centre receptions.

Speech and Language Drop In Sessions

Most children's centres have a monthly Speech and Language Drop In session. The sessions are run by Speech and Language Therapists who will chat through any concerns that you may have about your child.

Small Talk

Small Talk, for 1-2 year olds, shows you ways of supporting your child's language development. Contact your nearest children's centre to find out more.

Play with Language

Play with Language, for 2-3 year olds, is run by a Speech and Language Therapist and a Children's Centre Worker. It is a small group of parents and children who come to find out about communication. The children may have some difficulty with speaking or understanding language. The group helps the children to concentrate and listen and learn new words through play.

Other groups in York

To find more language groups and story times across York, contact Family Information Service on 01904 554444.



Find out more about the National Year of Communication at www.hello.org.uk or get in touch with your children's centre to find out what's going on!

For more information about children's centres, or to find your nearest, please contact Family Information Service on 01904 554444 or go to www.yorkchildrenscentres.org.uk.