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Children's Speech and Language Therapy Team Sentence Building

Being able to build sentences allows children to ask questions, tell stories and chat with their friends.

Top Tips to support sentence building

- Follow your child's lead. Let them talk about something they are interested in.
- Try to reduce the number of questions you ask your child. Instead, comment on their play using simple phrases and allow plenty of time for your child to talk.
- Repeat back what they say correctly, e.g. Child: "The monkey falled" Adult: "That's right, the monkey fell".
- Add one or two extra words, e.g. Child: "a house!" Adult: "Yes, a red house"

Activity ideas

- Give opportunities and create reasons for your child to communicate.

E.g. When playing with a jigsaw, hide one piece. This provides an opportunity for your child to communicate 'where's the bus?' 'no bus' etc.



Role Reversal.

- If your child is confident in speaking, allow them to be the 'teacher' and encourage them to tell you what to do / draw / find etc.
- This allows them to practise using clear sentences to give instructions.



Telling Jokes.

- With older children, jokes and puns can be important to develop their use of more abstract language, whilst also helping to foster good humour and creativity.
- Read through child-friendly joke books and take turns telling witty stories.



Tell stories.

- With older children, you can find a random selection of pictures / objects and take it in turns to tell a story about them.
- Encourage your child to use story-telling words such as 'first', 'next', 'finally'.

Useful websites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3ck7zuqaLE>

- Video discussing difficulties with spoken language

<https://www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services-a-z/speech-and-language-therapy2/speech-and-language-therapy-toolkit/> - Expressive Language Resources

<http://www.coventrychildrens.nhs.uk/pages/talking.html>