



## Listening and Speaking

**It is important to help your child with speaking and listening because:**

- Your child's ability to speak and listen well will be a good foundation for their future learning
- If they are good speakers and listeners they will do better at reading and writing
- If they can communicate well with others, it will help them to make friends more easily
- They will become more independent and be able to learn about the world
- Your child will learn to express their feelings and not become frustrated so easily

**At school younger children will learn to:**

- Think about what they say and choose the right words
- Speak fluently and confidently
- Listen to instructions from the teacher
- Listen to their classmates before speaking and take turns

**As they get older they will:**

- Join in group discussions and make useful points
- Present to an audience, expressing their opinions clearly
- Take part in decision-making and debate
- Learn how language varies in different situations



**Put listening to your child first:**

- Show your child how to be a good listener by listening to them and others
- Be patient: don't interrupt or finish their sentences for them
- Give your child your attention: don't check your mobile phone at the same time as they are talking to you
- Show you're listening: ask questions about what they say, ask their opinions



Adapted from the NAHT and Family Action

**Be a clear speaker:**

- Speak confidently, using the right words and set an example by talking in full sentences
- If English is not your first language, the most important thing is that you speak your own language confidently and well
- Use clear, simple directions for tasks and behaviours
- When your child follows directions, show you notice: praise them for listening to you



**Get involved every day:**

- Discuss their day with them when you see them after school
- Try to have a family meal together as often as possible
- Encourage your child to talk about their views and interests with others
- Ask them about their homework and get involved with it
- Switch off television and laptops well before bedtime: chat or read a bedtime story together instead

**Have fun speaking and listening together**

- Play family games together, like I Spy, Charades, Chinese Whispers and Articulate
- Nursery rhymes, songs, jokes and puppets are an important way of helping younger children learn language
- Re-tell familiar stories and have fun making up your own
- With older children, read books and poetry aloud together
- Discuss and debate issues in the news

**And look at these websites for a few more ideas:**

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/songs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/songs)

[www.ican.org.uk](http://www.ican.org.uk)

[www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)

[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

[www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)

