

Early Interventions Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Click the title to go to the activity:

[1, 2, 3 Go!](#)

[Box / Junk Modelling](#)

[Can you do? \(Easy Simple Simon\)](#)

[Talk about a familiar photograph](#)

[Helping to set the table](#)

[Helping with the washing](#)

[Home learning packs - building blocks](#)

[I spy](#)

[Lotto game / picture pairs](#)

[Magic potions](#)

[Matching sound and object game](#)

[Memory / tray game](#)

[Music Man](#)

[Making musical instruments](#)

[Pairs games](#)

[Sequencing songs](#)

[Sound bag](#)

[Sound lotto](#)

[Sounds around the home](#)

[Spinning bottle](#)

[Teddy bear play](#)

[The posting game](#)

[Toys' tea party](#)

[What's inside the box game](#)

Let's Get
Talking

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

1, 2, 3 Go!

What you need:

Building blocks

How to do it:

- Show your child how to stack the blocks to make a tower. Ask your child to build a tower like yours. You could talk to them about the colour of blocks or the size of their tower.
- Ask your child to knock down their tower when you say '1, 2, 3 Go!' Your child must wait until you say 'Go'. As your child gets better at waiting, leave a longer gap before you say 'Go'.
- Take turns so that your child says '1, 2, 3 Go!' and you can knock your tower down.

How this helps your child:

- Helps your child learn to listen and follow instructions.
- Helps your child to learn new words, such as blocks, red, green, yellow, big, small, next, on top, fall down...
- Supports social skill development by showing your child how to take turns and wait.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Box / Junk Modelling

What you need:

- Book (stimulus – dinosaurs, vehicles and so on)
- A variety of empty boxes, cartons, containers, scissors, string, tape, paint, sellotape, wool and so on.

How to do it:

- Read the story or look through the pictures and talk about them with your child.
- Explain and encourage your child to think about what they want to make.
- Talk about this and discuss what they will need.
- Make and paint the model.
- Use the model as a prop when telling the story again.
- Talk about how you could make it better next time.
- Talk about what to make next time

How this helps your child:

- Supports attention and listening skills.
- Develops language through conversation and modelling words and sentences.
- Supports social skill development through turn taking, sharing, working together.
- Supports the development of imaginative play
- Increases sound awareness if you link sounds to the finished models, such as car sounds, police siren sounds, dinosaur sounds.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Can you do? (Easy Simple Simon)

What you need:

Just a bit of time.

How to do it:

Ask your child to listen and follow the instructions.

- Can you touch your nose?
- Can you stand on tiptoes? / cross your arms and nod your head? (Add two instructions to make it harder.)

Get all the family to join in.

- Can Nana put her hands on her head?
- Can Daddy spin around?

Take it in turns with your child to give instructions.

How this helps your child:

- Supports the development of attention and listening skills. It encourages your child to wait and listen before completing instruction.
- Helps your child to learn to follow instructions.
- Gives your child a chance to use words and sentences.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Talk about a familiar photograph

What you need:

A photograph

How to do it:

Talk with your child about the photograph. Tell them all about the photograph and then have a conversation about:

- Where it is.
- What you can do there.
- What you can see.
- Say "I can see aCan you see the ...?"

How this helps your child:

- Supports language development as you use words and sentences to describe the picture.
- Supports the development of attention and listening skills.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Helping to set the table

What you need:

- Knives
- Plates
- Forks
- Mats
- Spoons
- Cups

How to do it:

- Encourage your child to help you to lay the table, either for a family meal or for a dolls party.
- Talk about the objects that you use and what you will need, such as plate, spoon ... Talk to your child about what they like to eat and drink.
- Talk about what is happening and why, for example 'Dad needs a knife to cut his chicken'.

How this helps your child:

- Encourages the development of listening skills.
- Increases vocabulary through naming objects and talking about their uses.
- Encourages reasoning and explanation skills.
- Encourages the importance of social skills at meal times.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Helping with the washing

What you need:

All sorts of clothing

How to do it:

Encourage your child to help you do the washing by:

- Sorting dark and light colours or any colours
- Talking about the different textures you can feel and describe the items, such as stretchy, light, heavy, woolly, soft, fluffy ...
- Counting out items, for example buttons, socks ...
- Pairing socks up – talk about colour, pattern, size
- Talking about seasons - what do we wear in different seasons and why?
- Encouraging your child to pull sleeves the right way, open any buttons.

How this helps your child:

- Enhances vocabulary as you talk about what you are doing.
- Shows your child how to describe objects.
- Helps your child to learn concepts such as colour and texture.
- Shows your child how to count and sort.
- Gives your child a chance to learn about seasons and hot and cold weather.
- Helps your child to organise their thinking, for instance things that go together – shirt and tie, shoes and socks.
- Develops your child's manipulative skills which can help them learn to write.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Home learning packs - building blocks

What you need:

Building blocks – (could be borrowed from setting)

Mat

How to do it:

- Place blocks on the mat (focus the activity).
- Get on child's level and play with them (play together).
- Talk to your child about the blocks while you both make different structures, such as towers.
- Encourage / praise child when they build.
- Comment on what child is doing
 - 'You have made a tower'
 - 'You have got two red blocks ...'
- Talk about how you could make it balance / taller / smaller.

How this helps your child:

- Supports the development of social skills.
- Helps them to learn counting and shapes.
- Helps them to learn description and predictive language.
- Supports the development of attention and listening skills.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

I spy

What you need:

Your voice and eyes.

How to do it:

- Play this anywhere – around your home, on the way to and from nursery, in the car, at the shops.
- Say 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with ...' for example 'f'. Focus on the sound, for example 'fffff' not its name 'ef'.

How this helps your child:

- This supports the development of attention and listening skills.
- It helps your child to listen to and tune into the sounds at the beginning of words.
- It helps your child to begin to break words down into sounds which will help with learning to read.
- This can develop language as you name new objects.
- This supports social skill development as you play together and take turns.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Lotto game / picture pairs

What you need:

Lotto games, snap, matching games

How to do it:

- Show your child how to play the game.
- Talk about the objects shown in pictures. Point out any similarities and differences.
- Match real objects to the pictures by finding them in the room, hunting around the house and garden.
- Try making your own matching game.

How this helps your child:

- Supports language development by introducing new words and concepts.
- Develops social skills by learning how to take turns, share, win and lose.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Magic Potions

What you need:

- Clear plastic bottles - any shape or size.
- Odds and ends, bits and bobs, such as rice, oats, flour, coloured paper, sawdust, glitter, pebbles, wool, corks, bark ... anything as long as it will fit in your bottle.

How to do it:

- This activity builds on story sessions with books 'Meg and Mog', 'Winnie the Witch' but you can also do this without a story.
- Put your odds and ends, bits and bobs inside the plastic bottles.
- Hunt around your home, inside and outside, for things to add to the bottle to make a 'magic potion'.
- Talk about what you see and find.
- Try to use rhyming words, "we've got rice to make mice" and "we've got oats to make goats". Add water if you want to and close bottle.
- You could fill the bottles with objects starting with the same sound, such as socks and sand. Don't forget to write a label for your potion.

How this helps your child:

- Supports speech sound awareness through rhyme.
- Encourages awareness of how words are made up of different sounds.
- Supports the development of attention and listening skills by helping your child to listen to and follow instructions as well as focusing on a task.
- Introduces your child to new words as you talk about what you find. Supports the development of social skills as you all work together and take turns in your conversation.

[More ideas ...](#)
Let's Get

Talking

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Matching sound and object game

What you need:

- Pictures and photos of objects in the room that make sounds, such as pots and pans, paper bag, alarm clock.
- A towel

How to do it:

- Sit where your child can easily see you. Hold a towel over your lap.
- Make a sound with an object behind the towel so your child can't see the object.
- Talk to your child about what might have made the noise. Encourage them to match the picture or photo to the noise you make.

How this helps your child:

- Promotes good listening skills.
- Supports the development of new vocabulary.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Memory / tray game

What you need:

- A quiet environment
- A tray with a tea towel or equivalent to cover it
- Any objects / toys found around the home

How to do it:

- Find some objects or toys in regular use around the home and place on a tray.
- Talk to your child about the objects, their names and what you do with them. Then cover with a tea towel.
- Remove one object as your child's eyes are covered.
- Uncover your child's eyes, remove the tea towel and encourage them to say which object is missing.
- This could be extended using objects that make a noise (discuss the sounds and encourage your child to listen) or objects with different textures and so on.

How this helps your child:

- Supports the development of language through naming and describing objects.
- Promotes the development of memory.
- Develops of attention skills.
- Encourages the development of social skills through turn taking.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Music Man

What you need:

You, your child and your voice.

How to do it:

Sing the song "Music Man"

I am the music man
I come from down your way
And I can play (What can I play?)
I play the ...

Think of an instrument you could play and the sound it makes, such as:

- Trumpet – to ti to ti to ti to
- Big drum – boom di boom di boom di boom
- Triangle – ting to ting to ting to ting
- Castanets – click clock click clock click clock click

How this helps your child:

- Develops attention and listening skills.
- Supports sound awareness through listening to and practising new speech sounds.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Making musical instruments

What you need:

Pots, pans, wooden spoons, boxes, bottles (with pasta/rice inside), red card or card with smiley face, green card or card with sleepy face

How to do it:

- Use the items above to make instruments.
- Beat or shake the instruments loudly when you show a red card or smiley face ...
- Beat or shake instruments quietly when you show a green card or sleeping face ...
- Sing familiar songs and rhymes quietly or loudly.
- Play musical CDs or tapes together turning the volume up or down.

How this helps your child:

- Develops attention and listening skills.
- Encourages your child to listen to the difference of volume.
- Supports speech sounds development as your child begins to tune into loud and quiet sounds.
- Develops social skills such as turn taking, for example 'Your turn to play your drum quietly'.
- Supports language development as your child learns the words involved in the activity.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Pairs Games

What you need:

Set of picture cards

How to do it:

- Place the cards face up and talk to your child about the objects.
- Talk about the object, for example 'you can eat apples'.
- Change roles and encourage your child to do the above. You can also place the cards face down and take it in turns to find pairs, naming objects as you turn them over.

How this helps your child:

- Develops language by introducing new object words, actions words and describing words.
- Supports the development of social skills through turn taking.
- Encourages attention and listening skill development.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Sequencing songs

What you need:

You, your child and your voice.

How to do it:

- Sing a song with your child when taking part in daily routines. Sing the song to the tune of 'Here we go round the mulberry bush'. While getting dressed sing 'This is the way we put on our trousers' (socks, T-shirt, coat and so on). Or 'This is the way we sit at table' (hold our fork, eat our tea and so on).
- Take time to talk to your child and encourage your child to think about what happens in what order. Talk about what happens first, next and last.

How this helps your child:

- Supports the development of language by introducing new words.
- Helps your child to organise their thinking.
- Introduces your child to 'time' language.
- Supports the development of sound awareness through rhyme.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Sound bag

What you need:

- Camera film containers (or similar) in a cloth bag.
- Rice, dry lentils, pasta, small pebbles and so on – pairs filled with rice, dried peas, lentils, large pebble ... (You can seal the containers and decorate sides)

How to do it:

- Fill the containers with your child so that you have matching pairs of containers (such as 2 x rice; 2 x pebbles and so on).
- Listen to the sounds made by the shakers. Match the sounds and talk about loud and quiet sounds.
- You could ask your child to jump when they hear a loud shaker and sleep when they hear a quiet shaker.

How this helps your child:

- Supports speech sound awareness as your child learns the difference between loud and quiet sounds.
- Supports the development of attention and listening skills.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Sound Lotto

What you need:

Pictures of objects. Recordings of the sounds the objects make.

How to do it:

- Share out the pictures between you and your child.
- Play the recorded sounds. Add a counter or turn over the picture that goes with the sound you hear.
- Talk about the object saying what it is, what it does and where you find it. The winner is the person who turns over or puts a counter on all of their pictures first.

How this helps your child:

- Supports the development of attention and listening as your child focuses on listening to a particular sound.
- Develops language as you talk about the sound you hear and what object made it.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Sounds around the home

What you need:

You and your child, your eyes and ears.

How to do it:

- Go around the house listening to noises made by different objects you come across, such as kettle boiling; tap running; light switch clicking; clock ticking; alarm sounding; shower running; toaster popping.
- Ask your child to close their eyes. Get one of the objects to make their noise. See if your child can identify what made the noise. Talk about the quality of the sound; is it loud, quiet, long, or short?

How this helps your child:

- Supports the development of attention and listening as your child focuses on listening to a particular sound.
- Supports language development as you talk about the sound you hear and what object made it.
- Supports the development of sound awareness as you talk about the quality of the sounds.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Spinning bottle

What you need:

Plastic bottle

How to do it:

- Sit at a table or on the floor with your child.
- Explain to your child that you are going to spin the bottle and when you say a code word your child has to pick up the bottle before it stops spinning.
- Decide on the code word between you.

How this helps your child:

- Supports the development of attention and listening skills. Your child needs to listen carefully for the special code word.
- Supports social skill development. Your child learns to take turns in play.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Teddy Bear play

What you need:

- A bear
- Backpack
- A variety of things for the bear, such as toothbrush, sleeping bag, clothes and a note book.

How to do it:

- Spend some time playing with the bear over a weekend. As you go out and about with your child take the bear and backpack with you. Involve the bear in what you are doing, talk about it and write down, draw or take pictures to record what you have done in the note book.
- Activities at home could be making tea, playing in the garden, getting ready for bed and so on. Activities out and about could be shopping or going to the park.
- You will end up with a lovely diary for your child to share with their friends and relatives. Help them retell what the bear has been doing.

How this helps your child:

- Supports language development by giving your child a chance to talk about home experiences and builds their confidence to talk to others.
- Supports the development of listening as they listen to you in your conversation about the bear.
- Supports social skill development as they interact with other people to retell their experiences

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

The posting game

What you need:

A post box (or a box with a posting hole) and picture cards

How to do it:

- Talk about the pictures with your child, what they are, what they do and describe the words.
- When you are sure your child knows the pictures ask them find one of them, for example 'find me the bird'. When your child finds the bird, ask them to tell you something about the picture. If they reply 'It's a bird' you extend by saying "Yes, it's a blue bird' or "Yes it's a bird and it can fly".

How this helps your child:

- Supports attention and listening development as your child listens to the instructions being given.
- Supports language development as you talk about the pictures giving new words and sentence structures.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

Toys' tea party

What you need:

- Dolls / teddies
- Tea set
- Tablecloth

How to do it:

- Set out the activity with your child. Involve your child in planning where to put the toys around the tablecloth.
- Talk with your child about the object, what they are called, what they look like and what you do with them.
- Show your child how to ask teddy if he wants a cup of tea and then encourage your child to take a turn.
- You could sing the rhyme 'I'm a little teapot' while your play; write invitations together beforehand; have a real tea party with food and drink.

How this helps your child:

- Helps to develop social skills as you take turns speaking and listening.
- Develops language skills as you talk about the objects and use language to pretend.
- Helps your child to practise the words and sentences involved in the game.

[More ideas ...](#)

Early Interventions

Speech, Language and Communication

Every Child a Talker



Ideas to support speech, language and communication development

Here's an idea:

What's inside the box game

What you need:

- Box
- An object that your child chooses

How to do it:

- At home your child chooses an object to go in the box. Talk to your child about the object, what it is, what it does, what it looks like. Put the object in the box.
- Then **either** go to another person who has to ask questions to guess what is in the box **or** ask your child to describe the object to another person who has to guess what is in the box.

How this helps your child:

- Supports the development of attention and listening development.
- Supports language development as you introduce new words and ideas.
- Supports social skill development as your child learns to take turns.

[More ideas ...](#)