

ABC Conversations on: chatting

Welcome

There are lots of ways to encourage talking more with your child - from singing, reading, storytelling and saying nursery rhymes, including, learning through everyday interactions.

Here are some more hints and tips...

A

Attention

- Pay attention - eye contact/be up close
- Listen with interest and understanding
- Allow them to find their own words
- Acknowledge with a signal/expression
- Be present
- Be focused
- Don't deny feelings
- Talk normally
- Be patient
- Capture interests

B

Boost

- Give encouraging affirmations
- Be careful not to assume
- Take turns in talking and listening
- Say things like "I need you to..."
- Don't say "or else..."
- Encourage eye contact
- Respond calmly
- Help turn body language and feelings into words
- Be descriptive with what you see, hear and feel

C

Conversation

- Give positive instructions
- Ask simple open questions
- Don't overload with advice
- Options give a sense of empowerment
- Give practical help with decision-making
- Give clear information or requests
- Prompt and guide where possible
- Repeat the same words to connect
- Children see, hear, notice and internalise everything so be genuine

