Talking with your baby

Learning to talk is one of the most important and complex skills your child will accomplish. It seems to happen naturally, but in fact you have a very important role to play. The more you talk to your baby, the more you enable her to become a good talker and a confident, happy child.

- Talk about what you’re doing throughout the day – when you’re bathing or feeding your baby, or changing her nappy.

- Talk about the things you see on the way to the shops, or at the supermarket. Try to talk about the things your child shows an interest in.

- Talk in the language that you know best. It doesn’t have to be English.

- Look at your baby as you talk and give him time to respond to your chatter.

- Answer your baby’s noises and babbles.

- Cuddle up together and read a favourite book or talk about the pictures.

- Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs, especially those with actions.

- Listen carefully and give your toddler time to finish talking.

- If your toddler says something incorrectly, say it back the right way e.g. “Goggy bited it.” “Yes, the dog bit it, didn’t he.”

- Try to watch TV together so you can talk about what happens.

Quick tips may be photocopied. For more information visit www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk
Talk To Your Baby is an initiative of the National Literacy Trust.