

# Top Tips for Talking



Ways in which practitioners can support and develop communication

## **A Unique Child**

- Follow the child's lead.
- Join in with the child's play or mirror their actions.
- Focus on what a child is looking at or doing.
- Wait and allow the child time to start the conversation.
- Take turns to communicate so that adults and children both get a turn at talking.

## Positive Relationships

- Build up a child's sentences by repeating what they say and adding words.
- Give choices to increase vocabulary, e.g. 'apple or satsuma?'
- If a child says something inaccurately, acknowledge what they have said and repeat it back in the correct way.
- Share the top tips with parents so that they can do the same at home.

## Enabling Environment

- Get down to the child's level – it's easier to talk if you are face to face.
- Get a child's attention before you start to talk.
- Make sure you use lots of statements and fewer questions.
- Try and have a conversation with every child every day.



# Learning and Development

- Plan a variety of interesting activities so that there is plenty to talk about.
- Use daily routines to repeat and emphasise basic language.
- Listen to sounds around you and play games that encourage listening.
- Have fun together with songs and rhymes