



### Giving the gift of Gab! 10 Talking Tips for Parents

Take time to talk with your child throughout the day. Children with delays in language skills need extra practice. Simplifying language helps to teach your child language skills. Use these tips during the daily routine to encourage verbal imitation skills, comprehension and communication development.

- Soft and easy speech keeps talking fun. Monitor your loudness and pitch.
- Speak slowly and clearly.
- Keep sentences short and simple. Pretend you are sending a telegram and shorten your message to help understanding. Even though the grammar may seem incorrect, it's language models the child can understand, imitate and then use at a later time.
- Exaggerate important words with your voice and tone.
- If you have the opportunity to get eye level with your child, get down and do it!
- Praise your child's communication attempts. Your child doesn't have to repeat exactly what you said so don't feel the need to correct pronunciation and grammar.
- Give your child time to talk and avoid interrupting and filling in words.
- Use gestures, body posture and facial expressions to help communicate your message and promote understanding. These non-verbal forms of language carry lots of information about a person's emotion and intent.
- Repeat the topic of conversation and main idea to help build concepts.
- When asking questions, give your child a chance to respond before repeating the question. It may take time for your child to organize thoughts and feelings into words.