

Talking Together

Families **talk** now

The course of becoming a skilful communicator starts at birth.

What a Communication Discoverer is learning to do

- Turn towards sounds and recognise their parent's voice.
- Stop and look when they hear their own name.
- Be fascinated by new events and actions.
- Listen to, and respond to the sounds of voices, for example an adult singing to them.
- Begin to understand frequently used words such as "all gone", "bye bye", "no".
- Communicate in a variety of ways including gurgling, crying, babbling and making sounds. They also use non-verbal communication such as reaching out, smiling and pointing, to tell you how they are feeling and what they want.
- Make sounds with their voice in order to interact with others.
- Play with sounds like "ba-ba-ba", "mummm".
- Look at faces and copy facial movements and body language, like clapping hands.
- Be increasingly aware of other people and take turns in simple interactions, sometimes using sounds/babble, such as peek-a boo.



'Developing Confident Communicators for Life'

What you can do to help

- Be face to face with your child, so that they can see your face and hear your voice, and you can see and hear them too.
- Use your child's name when you talk to them.
- Respond to your child's facial expressions and sounds and copy them back.
- Talk to your baby about what you are doing, such as when you changing their nappy or feeding them.
- Sing to your baby. Stroke their cheeks and gently get their attention as you sing and talk to them.
- Repeat words again and again to your child and talk to them throughout the day.
- Watch your child and learn about what makes them smile.
- Have fun together!

