

Talking Together

Families **talk** now

Children learn to be strong and independent from a foundation of loving and secure relationships with their parents and key people in their lives

What a First Word Communicator is learning to do

- Take pleasure in making and listening to a wide variety of sounds and babble.
- Be interested in music and singing and maybe join in by dancing, wiggling, making sounds.
- Listen to noises and other people talking.
- Understand simple meanings conveyed by speech, in context. Understand more than they can say
- Babble in strings of connected but different sounds, e.g. "ba-da-ga".
- Create personal words as they begin to develop language e.g 'blankie' for their favourite comforter.
- Use around 10 single words although these may not be clear.
- Like being with familiar adults. Watches and copies the adults body language including gesture and pointing.
- Respond to words and interactive rhymes such as "Clap hands".



'Developing Confident Communicators for Life'

What you can do to help

- Imitate the sounds made by your child to encourage them to say it again.
- Sing nursery rhymes and lullabies in whatever language you use at home.
- Get out and about where you can see and talk to other adults and children. You could go to a play and stay or visit friends' houses.
- Share a book with your child. Allow them time to explore the book by mouthing, touching and holding it. Hold your child close and sing and talk as you share the book. Use books that have different textures, make sounds or have mirrors.
- Give simple instructions like "Where is your sock?".
- Extend your child's language by commenting about what they are doing.
- Sit on the floor face to face together for action rhymes e.g. "row, row, row your boat".

