

Talking Together

Families **talk** now

Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable and self-assured

What an Early Sentence User is learning to do

- Listen to talk with interest, but can still be distracted.
- Respond to people talking to them to but may need prompts, for example hearing their name first.
- Understand simple concepts such as "in"/"on"/"under", "big"/"little".
- Understand simple "who", "what", "where" questions but not "why".
- Understand a simple story with pictures.
- Use new words frequently, and may use up to 300 words
- Link 3-5 words together e.g. "I want drink".
- Repeat words and phrases from familiar stories and songs.
- Hold a short conversation but may jump from topic to topic.
- Be interested in other children's play and will join in.
- Express their emotions towards adults and other children.
- Enjoy favourite stories, songs and rhymes.
- Use language to share their experiences and their thoughts.

'Developing Confident Communicators for Life'

What you can do to help

- Provide opportunities for children to talk with other children and adults about what they see, hear, think and feel.
- Describe what children are doing by providing a running commentary, "You are digging in the sand with a spade".
- Remember that young children's understanding of language may be greater than their ability to express their thoughts and ideas.
- Encourage children to play with sounds and words. Read a rhyme until the child knows it well. Then, let them fill in the rhyming words e.g. 'Hickory, dickory... dock'
- While tidying up, talk about toys and what they have been doing with them.
- Add a word to your child's sentences so they hear a slightly more complicated version of what they have just said, for example "Me want biscuit!"
"Tommy wants a **chocolate** biscuit"

