

What can parents do at home?

What can we do?

We can give our children a great start in life by being their first and most important teacher, and we can continue to support their communication skills at all ages.

How?

By providing a communication-friendly home and being a good conversational partner. We can support our children's understanding by using visual prompts and symbols (e.g. a visual timetable to help your child get ready in the morning).

Things we can do to help:

- ✓ Use everyday activities to talk about what is going on – children learn by repetition and by seeing and experiencing things for themselves
- ✓ Everyday activities can be the best talking times, e.g. travelling time, mealtimes, washing and dressing
- ✓ Make it fun! Play together, share stories, talk about TV characters or people in the news, share music.
- ✓ Listen to your child and give them time to finish talking
- ✓ Speak to your child in the language you know best, it doesn't have to be English
- ✓ If they make mistakes, just say the word or sentence properly yourself.



Parent information leaflets are also available on the main Parents page of the SLCN Pathway website or visit the Worcestershire Speech and Language Therapy Service webpages for advice, resources and further information about how you can support your child at home <http://www.hacw.nhs.uk/our-services/speech--language-therapy/childrens/>



www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk is a useful website for parents and professionals. The parent section has information on the importance of communicating with children from birth and useful tips on including talk time in everyday life. There are also fun activities. There are a number of leaflets to give advice about how to help children develop good talking and listening skills from "Talk to Your Baby" available from: http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/talk_to_your_baby/resources/418_quick_tips_available_bilingually_in_13_languages