



Parent Support Sheet

Speaking And Listening

It is important to help your child with speaking and listening because your child's ability to speak and listen well will be a good foundation for their future learning. Children who are good speakers and listeners will do better at reading and writing. Children who can communicate well with others will find it easier to make friends and develop relationships further with both adults and children. Children will also become more independent and be able to learn about the world around them. Children who are confident at talking will learn to express their feelings and not become frustrated so easily.



At school your child will learn to:

- **Think and Choose** - Think about what they say and choose the right words
- **Fluency** - Speak fluently and confidently
- **Listen** – Listen carefully to instructions from the teacher and other children when playing
- **Take Turns in Conversations** - Listen to their classmates before speaking and take turns in conversations
- **Join In** - Join in group discussions and make useful points
- **Talk Loudly and Clearly** - Talk using a loud and clear voice in front of others, present to an audience, take part in show & tell, lead prayer services and plays
- **Express Opinions** – Talk about their opinions and feelings with a wide ranging vocabulary
- **Make Decisions** - Take part in decision-making and debate
- **Styles** - Learn how language varies in different situations

Listening - What you can do at home to help your child:

- **Remove Distractions** - Think about what things may be preventing your child from listening carefully and remove them. Examples might include televisions, music, noise or interruptions
- **Role Model** - Show your child how to be a good listener by listening to them and others
- **Patients** - Be patient: don't interrupt or finish their sentences for them
- **Full Attention** - Give your child your attention: don't check your mobile phone at the same time as they are talking to you
- **Looking** - Show your child you are listening by looking at them and respond to what they have said. Ask questions about what they have said, ask for opinions or ask for further information. Respond with relevant comments or experiences you may have about the subject in question
- **Reading** - Listen to your child reading aloud regularly

Speaking - What you can do at home to help your child:

- **Role Model** - Speak confidently, using the right words and a growing imaginative vocabulary. Set an example by talking in full sentences and move away from 'baby talk'
- **Own Language** - If English is not your first language, the most important thing is that you speak your own language confidently and well
- **Speak Clearly** - Use clear, simple directions for tasks and behaviours
- **Praise** - When your child follows directions, show you notice: praise them for listening to you
- **Hello** – Say hello to your child when you pick them up from school and welcome them with a hug. Ask them about their day while walking home from school
- **Meals** - Try to have a family meal together as often as possible and use this time to talk together as a family
- **Interests** - Encourage your child to talk about their views and interests with you and their friends
- **Homework** - Ask your child about their homework and get involved with it
- **Technology** - Switch off televisions, laptops and tablets and play a game together instead. Go outside and get active or stay inside and be creative
- **Bedtime** – Share a bedtime story together