

Talking Time: What can we see?

Support children to develop their communication skills with this one-on-one time activity.

Children learn speech and language through; listening, watching, exploring, copying, initiating, responding, playing and interacting with others.

The best way to encourage a child's speech and language development is to do lots of talking together about things that interest the child.

Spending some quality one-on-one time with a child talking about a shared focus can be very beneficial as it provides an opportunity to engage them in meaningful conversation.

Learning aims

- Developing children's communication skills and vocabulary through making links between pictures, ideas and words
- Supporting children's creativity and their ability to be confident in their own interpretation of pictures.



Resources

- Laminated pictures at least A5 size. Aim for a wide range of different pictures showing people, places, objects etc. Calendars, diaries, magazines and old books are good sources for your pictures. Laminate pictures back-to-back so that there is always an interesting picture visible
- A special box or basket to keep the pictures in.

Activity Outline

This is a good activity to share one-on-one with a child.

- Find a quiet space to sit together
- Open the box or basket together and give the child time to look through the pictures
- When the child selects a picture that seems particularly interesting to them encourage them to talk about the picture
- Make sure that you use only simple prompts rather than lots of questions ('What can you see?' 'Tell me about this picture')
- Offer new words to extend the child's vocabulary if this seems appropriate
- Remember, each picture will hold a child's attention differently, let them move to another picture, or away from the activity, when they are ready to do so
- If you use the activity with a small group take great care to ensure that each child has time and space to choose their picture, to examine it in their own time, and to talk about what they can see without interruption
- Remember, children with limited vocabulary and non-verbal children will use other means of communication, such as pointing, to share their interest in a picture.

Extending the activity

Set up a cosy, quiet area with the box or basket of pictures easily accessible. This will give opportunities for children to share conversations with a friend as they engage with the pictures together. Sometimes children like a quiet time alone. They may enjoy looking through the pictures and thinking about them, during these moments in their day.