

THE VALUE OF TALK

Copdock and Bentley Schools take language and communication very seriously. Each year, we see more children needing extra support with their speech and language. We will assess your child for language in October and support any outcomes and if you or we feel your child needs additional support to produce words, we will work with you to help your child produce clearer words.

LET'S SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN NOW!

Here are a few top tips for talking.

Come down to your child's level and give them time to answer.

Get their attention and make eye contact.

Keep sentences short.

Narrate your day!

Encourage your child to talk to you in full sentences by talking to them in full sentences.

Model back correctly what your child has said adding extra descriptive words.

Use repetitive sentences.

Play turn taking games: snap, board games, Chinese whispers, etc

Talk about what you are doing or going to do.

Build on what your child has said by adding one or two extra words when you model it back: "Look! Car" "Yes, it's a red car".

Try not to ask too many questions Especially ones that sound like you're constantly testing them! The best questions are those that make children think rather than give an instant answer, like 'yes' or 'no'. Good questions start with 'Why?', 'How?' and 'What if...?'

Don't criticize if your child says something wrong – model the correct way!

Use nursery rhymes and songs as a way to support speech.

Don't baby words – use rabbit rather than bunny, dog rather than doggy.

Play around with words, sounds and sentences. Don't be afraid to talk in funny voices, have daft conversations or make up silly rhymes.

Have conversations with your child – taking turns in conversations is tricky for children to learn – encourage them to wait while you are talking and give them your full attention when it is their turn! This will help children learn to focus and helps with behaviour.

Don't forget we also communicate using our bodies and facial expressions. 80% of communication is about how we gesture - so keep on moving!

READ TO YOUR CHILD!

This will allow them to hear full sentences with new, different and exciting vocabulary.

Here are a couple of I Spy type games for you to play with your child.

Don't just tick them off though – use them to initiate conversation!



Find something...



☐ Purple



☐ Blue



☐ Green



☐ Yellow



☐ White



☐ Pink



☐ Red



☐ Orange



Shop Talking Walk

Can you find a....



☐ Trolley



☐ Basket



☐ Card Machine



☐ Receipt



☐ Can



☐ Checkout



☐ Shopping Bag



☐ Shopping List

