

HELPING YOUR CHILD TO GROW

WITH SUPPORTING EARLY LET'S TALK! (ORACY & CONVERSATION)

WHAT YOU MAY ALREADY

DO...

- Talking to your child.
- Asking them questions.
- Giving them instructions.
- Asking them to help you with something.

“READING AND
WRITING FLOAT ON A
SEA OF TALK.” – JAMES
BRITTON

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

GROW FURTHER

The foundation of literacy starts with the spoken word.

- **Eye-to-Eye:** When talking, get down to your child's level. Use facial expressions and maintain eye contact to show you are listening.
- **Model the Way:** If your child makes a grammar mistake, don't worry! Simply repeat the sentence back correctly.

Child: "I goed to the park." You: "Yes! You went to the park! What did you see there?"

- **The 10-Second Rule:** Give your child plenty of time to think and respond. Silence is okay—it means their brain is working!
- **Dinner Time Discussions:** Use mealtimes to share the best part of your day. It's the perfect "chatting" zone.

Rhyme & Rhythm

Singing builds a child's "ear" for sounds.

- **Sing Every Day:** Nursery rhymes help children hear the patterns in language.
- **Find Your Favourites:** Check out the BBC A to Z of Nursery Rhymes online for lyrics and videos to sing along to.
- **Playful Games:** Try games like I Spy, Memory Games, or Kim's Game (hiding objects under a cloth and guessing which one is missing). These build vocabulary and focus.



The Power of Questions

Move beyond "Yes" or "No" to get them thinking.

Instead of asking "Did you have a good day?", try these Open Questions:

- "What was the funniest thing that happened today?"
- "How do you think we could fix this?"
- "What do you think will happen next in this story?"
- "Tell me more about what you are building!"



Imagination & Storytelling

Bringing stories to life anywhere and everywhere.

- **Be a Character:** When reading, change your voice! Be the big scary bear or the tiny squeaky mouse. Use puppets or even old socks to act out the story.
- **Create a Role-Play Corner:** You don't need fancy toys—a few old clothes, hats, or kitchen pots can turn a corner into a shop, a doctor's office, or a space station.

Stories on the Go: Who says stories stay in books?

- **The Story Tent:** Drape a sheet over two chairs in the garden.
- **Nature Tales:** Make up a story about a squirrel while at the park or a sea monster while at the beach.

