

Games and Ideas

- Play 'I spy' with a difference! Give your child clues which describe objects e.g. "I spy with my little eye something you can drink"
- Read a familiar story to your child e.g. 'The three little pigs'. Get your child to retell the story to you. You may need to prompt them. Make it good fun!
- Encourage your child to solve problems e.g. What would you do if you forgot your packed lunch?
- Make a scrapbook about your child's week. When you visit relatives or friends get your child to tell them what s/he has done by talking about the pictures. Listen carefully to your child's grammar. Don't correct mistakes but model good sentences

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development please speak to your child's teacher or contact your health visitor or doctor.

You can also call the speech and language call management centre 02896158100

Developing Your Child's Expressive Language





What is expressive language?

- Your child's ability to use spoken words meaningfully to say what they want
- It develops throughout life but most rapidly through the ages of 0-6 years
- Expressive language involves
 - vocabulary
 - grammar
 - putting words in the correct order in sentences
 - forming ideas and sequencing thoughts
 - using appropriate language socially
- Expressive language develops through play and social interaction
- It is important that children hear good language models as this is how they learn to communicate
- Children with expressive language difficulties may become frustrated or withdrawn



How will I know if my child has an expressive language difficulty?

- Your child may have a limited range of vocabulary and find it difficult to learn new words
- Your child may use short sentences and mix up the word order
- Your child may use immature grammar e.g. "Him's bike" instead of "His bike"
- Your child may have problems sequencing ideas and stories and get muddled up when telling you something

How can I support my child's expressive language development?

- Try to provide a good language model. When your child does get muddled, rather than correcting you can repeat the sentence saying how they should
- Try to avoid asking your child too many questions as this puts pressure on to perform