

First Talk – so much communication happens before words

Being together

Children learn by watching you



Physical closeness makes children feel safe



Make time to play and your child will learn



Your full attention is the greatest gift you can give to your child



Children learn to take turns with games like 'peek-a-boo'!



Your child is very interested in faces and will learn to smile back



Face to face your child will learn to copy you



Share a toy and encourage your child to copy you



Everyday jobs can be playtime for children



Remember - every child is different

First Talk – so much communication happens before words

Listening first

Children listen when you make your talking tuneful



Quiet time - children need quiet time everyday



Children love songs and rhymes



Children start to look towards your voice



Quiet time - background noise makes it hard for children to listen to your voice



Help your child to recognise familiar sounds - like the doorbell or the phone ringing



Children start to recognise names and familiar people



Children love to listen to stories and share a book with you



Help your child to learn that words are part of routines



Remember - every child is different

First Talk – so much communication happens before words

First talk

Show your child something colourful - talk about it, take time to catch their interest



Pause and wait - children need time to talk back



Cooing and crying is first talk



First talk can be body movements and facial expressions



Your child will shout for attention - talk back



Quiet time - children practice and play with speech when they're on their own



Watch carefully to understand my early talk



Your child will enjoy music and learn to clap with you



First words may begin to appear



Remember - every child is different

Developed by Gretel McEwen & Vicky Long. Based on 'Before Words'

First Talk – so much communication happens before words

Your routines

Wait - give me time to join in



Watch - notice how I join in



Repeat dressing time the same way each time and I will learn



Wait - give me time to join in



Watch - notice how I join in



Repeat bathtime the same way each time and I will learn



Wait - give me time to join in



Watch - notice how I join in



Repeat meal times the same way each time and I will learn



Remember - every child is different