

How to...

Support a child to use longer and more complex sentences

- Model back and expand their sentences ...show them how to add more information e.g. if they say “The boy’s jumping in the puddle”, you might say “**Yes, the boy’s jumping in the big muddy puddle**”. You can also show them how to add in simple grammar e.g. if they say “Bear eating apple”, you might say “**Yes, the bear’s eating the apple!**”
- Talk about what is happening during everyday activities... now that your child’s language skills are developing; you can use longer and more complex sentences. Show them how to use words like “**and**” and “**because**” to link your sentences
- Show them how to use describing words...use a range of descriptive vocabulary when talking with your child. Use words which describe all five senses... how something looks, smells, feels, sounds and tastes
- Read books together...this will help to develop the child’s imagination and vocabulary
- Talk about the pictures or story...Talk about familiar books after you have read them together – see if the child can tell you what happened. Use the pictures as prompts to help them remember, or prompt them e.g. “**What happened first?**” You can model back their sentences to show them how to add in more information, or how to add in spoken grammar if needed

Additional information:

For further information please contact Paediatric.services@acecic.nhs.uk or call ACE paediatric services on 01206 588100

Additional resources:

<https://www.talkingpoint.org.uk>

<https://www.elklan.co.uk/under-5s/early-language-builders>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>

<https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/wellcomm/>

<https://www.blacksheepress.co.uk/product/sentence-builder-expressive-skills/>

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