



Oral Language Tips for Parents/Guardians

Do you know that your child's oral language development is very important in helping him/her to read and write well? Children who have good oral language ability are likely to be better readers and writers. Oral language is made up of both speaking and listening skills. You can help your child to develop good oral language skills by doing some of the following simple activities with your child each day:

- ✚ Ask your child to tell about their day at school and don't let them away with saying 'nothing!'
- ✚ Talk about child's favourite T.V. show or computer game- get child to explain the rules of the game
- ✚ Look through old photos together and talk about what you see
- ✚ Name/label everything around them in the house/ in the shopping centre/ in the park
- ✚ Explain the meanings of any new words your child encounters. If you're not sure of the meaning, help your child to look up the meaning in a dictionary or online- Google it!

- ✚ Create experiences they can talk about e.g. trip to the park, trip on the LUAS etc.- ask questions after an event/birthday party etc. what was your favourite part of the day and why?
- ✚ Play Memory Games- I went to the shop and I bought.....bread, I bought bread and milk, I bought bread and milk and bananas etc.
- ✚ Play Games with multi-part instructions- Go to the kitchen and bring me a spoon. Go to the kitchen and bring me a spoon and a tea towel. Put the spoon on the sofa and put the tea towel on the telly etc.
- ✚ Guessing games- what household item am I describing? You can find me in the bathroom, I am used for cleaning teeth, I come in a tube and I taste minty? Now get your child to describe a household item to you
- ✚ Have fun with classic tongue twisters (She sells sea shells on the sea-shore.....) and create new ones together
- ✚ Classic oral language games such as 'I Spy' and 'Simon Says' are very good for developing your child's listening and speaking skills
- ✚ Involve your child in conversation/ask your child's opinion/give reasons for decisions
- ✚ Look directly at your child as they are speaking to you. Eye contact is very important and it shows your child that you are interested in what they have to say
- ✚ Commercial games such as- Hedbanz/Guess Who?/Junior 30 Seconds Game/Articulate for Kids/Don't Say It/Don't Panic/Think Words etc. are also useful in developing your child's oral language ability
- ✚ Read, Read, Read! Encourage your child to read at home as much as possible and remember that even older children like to have stories read to them sometimes

