

Helping your child become a strong communicator

For a child, getting a message out clearly affects everything from building friendships, showing their understanding to a teacher, and feelings of confidence.

You can help at home:

- ♦ Put your phone away, look at your child and listen to what they have to say. This shows your child that what they have to say is important to you. They will be encouraged to keep telling you their stories.
- ♦ If your child struggles with speech sounds or putting a sentence together be honest when you don't understand: *"Sorry, I didn't get that. Can you say it another way?"* Children see through the vague comments like *"lovely dear"* very quickly and know that they have not been understood.
- ♦ If you are in a hurry or your attention is split, it is better to gently put your child off until you have time to really listen. Half listening leads to miscommunication and frustration.
- ♦ Put aside time for conversations with your child. Choose topics that your child is interested in to begin. There is so much for a child to learn from the back and forth of a conversation that will serve them into adulthood– taking interest in what others have to say, asking good questions, maintaining attention , keeping on one topic, to name a few.

In the hurried world we live in, with technology at our fingertips, it is easy to forget all the benefits that come from sitting down and having conversations with our children!



School Speech Language Services

