

Greater Manchester

10 Tips for Talking

1. When I am in mum's tummy I can hear. I love to listen to your voice when you talk or sing to me. I even like to listen to your favourite music.

- Hearing you helps me to recognise you and builds a bond between us. Voices and music that I know will comfort me when I am born.



2. Cuddle me close so I can see your face and talk to me as soon as I am born.

- I love it when you talk in a high pitched, sing song voice. People all over the world talk this way to babies because it helps us to learn.
- I might not be able to talk yet, but I will respond in my own way. I might look hard at your face, move my mouth when you talk or even wave my arms and legs. These all mean I am bonding with you.



3. Talk about things that interest me or tell me how you think I am feeling.

- If I look or point at something, talk about that. This shows me that you understand me.



4. Don't ignore me.

- Grown-ups are experts in talking and I learn everything from you.
- Put your phone down, turn off the telly and let's have a chat.
- I can hear you really well when it is quiet. I like to listen carefully to your talking. This will help me to become a good listener and a good talker.



5. I love it when we play, sing and read together

- We can play with anything it doesn't have to be toys. We can make funny faces together or play with a cardboard box.
- Follow my lead when I am playing. This lets me use my imagination.
- Talk to me about what I am doing rather than asking questions. I will talk more when you do this.
- Sharing stories together helps me to learn new words and ideas. I love it when we talk about the story as we turn the pages. Let me see the pictures too.



6. Talk to me all the time

- Talk to me when we are playing or doing everyday things like shopping, having a bath, nappy changing or eating tea.
- It doesn't matter if you say the same things over and over again, this is how I learn.



7. Play talking tennis with me

- Say something to me and then give me lots of time to respond.
- It helps to count to 10 in your head before speaking again. This how I learn to take turns.
- When I'm a baby I still like to play talking tennis. Watch out for my smiles, sounds and looks. This is my way of talking to you. As I get older, I will start to use words.



8. Teach me new words:

- You can help me to grow my talking by repeating what I say and adding a new word or two.
- This is how I learn to put words together. If I say "car" you could say 'you're *pushing* the car' or "the car is *driving*".



9. Take my dummy out when I am talking

- Dummies get in the way and stop me talking clearly.



10. Use the language you know best when you talk to me at home

- This will help my brain to grow and I will learn English quickly if I already know the words in our home language.

